

Nic wears mom Lea's gown at her intimate christening party

Fake Nigerian prince arrested by NBI for extortion

Senga admitted he was used to cheat in '04 election, says one of key officers in plot

Israel bombs Beirut international airport; killing 27 civilians

Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to deter smugglers

By Doris C. Dumiao

TO COPE WITH SKY-rocketing metal prices and make coin smuggling less attractive, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has altered the metal content of the various denominations of the Philippine peso and centavo coins.

The change in the metallic composition was prompted by rising prices of copper, nickel and zinc, said BSP currency analysis and redemption manager Maria Gracia Malic.

The BSP issued a new batch of coins in May to reduce production costs—with the new P1 coins weighing only 5.35 grams instead of the previous 6.1 grams.

The new P1 coins are nickel-covered steel. The earlier editions were 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel.

The new brass-covered coins now weigh 3.6 grams while earlier editions weighed 3.8 grams and were made up of copper and zinc at a 65-35 percent ratio.

But only the one-peso and the 25-centavo coins have so far been reconfigured.

Malic said the new coins carried the same design as the old ones and that the weight difference should not be a problem with vending machines because it only required adjustments in settings.

The intrinsic value of Philippine coins, given the high cost of raw materials and minting, is usually greater than their face value, especially for lower-denominated 25-, 10-, 5- and 1-centavo coins.

As such, some unscrupulous groups find it profitable to board coins and sell them abroad to cash in on high metal prices.

To curb smuggling, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the key was intensified enforcement and greater intelligence.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the BSP foiled attempts by some groups to ship out over the last weekend about P3 million

CHEAPER/A3

## BIGGEST SECURITY: 14,000 troops to guard GMA Sona

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE BIGGEST-EVER SECURITY FORCE—around 14,000 police and military troops—to be deployed for a State of the Nation Address (Sona) will be seen on July 24 when President Macapagal-Arroyo will speak before a joint session of Congress, following the discovery of an alleged plot to seize the legislature.

"You can say it's an all-time high (deployment for the Sona)," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), after presiding over a joint security conference with his Armed Forces counterpart, Brig. Gen. Juanito Gomez, in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

From the original plan of 8,000 troops, authorities nearly doubled the deployment a day after claiming that the

July 7 arrest of six rebel junior officers belonging to the Magdalo group thwarted "Oplan Trident," a plot to seize the Batasang Paribansa complex and hold lawmakers hostage in order to force Ms Arroyo to step down.

The NCRPO announced that it would deploy 12,000 policemen, including commando forces from the Special Action Force. The AFP National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) will field 1,000 antiriot troops, with another 1,000 soldiers on standby.

"We made the adjustments because of Oplan Trident, the Magdalo 6 and intelligence reports that the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) will take advantage of the situation," Querol said.

But he also said: "We have no specific

BIGGEST/A3

## Mystery deepens on Bolante arrest

By Nikko Dizon, Philip C. Tuba and TJ Burgoon

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS has clammed up on the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, citing his purported request that all questions on his arrest and detention in the United States be referred to his Manila-based lawyer and spokesperson.

The DFA action only deepens the mystery: It remains unclear why Bolante's visa was cancelled by US immigration officials.

"We're not saying anything anymore. The DFA respects his request for privacy," DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque yesterday told the INQUIRER on the phone.

But Bolante's lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, did not pick up on any of the calls made by the INQUIRER to his mobile phone. His

staff also said he did not show up at his office yesterday.

The DFA, as well as a press statement from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, provided the media Zulueta's office numbers.

The self-imposed silence of the DFA gave rise to speculations and conjectures regarding Bolante, against whom ex-Solicitor General Francisco Chavez had

MYSTERY/A16

## San Pedro 'a very humiliating experience'

By Nikko Dizon

IT IS "VERY STRICT" AT THE SAN Pedro Detention Facility, located in the suburb of Los Angeles, California, and a 30-minute drive from LA's international airport.

And more than anything, it is "a very humiliating experience" to be detained

there for violation of US immigration laws.

A sprawling facility, the San Pedro jail is used exclusively for foreigners who have violated US immigration laws.

This was how an INQUIRER source familiar with the facility described the immigration detention facility where Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante is being held by the

US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now known as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The source, a Filipino-American businessman, had been to the detention facility where he had visited some Filipino friends who had been detained there.

SAN PEDRO/A16

## I wish I were dead, 'Nicole' tells court

By Terri V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

BY HER ACCOUNT, THE FILIPINO WOMAN ACCUSING four US Marines of rape often wishes that she were dead.

The complainant in the Subic rape case yesterday struggled through her words as she told the court of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon that since the night of Nov. 1, 2005, her life had been sleepless, depressing and filled with shame.

"Kadalasan po naisip ko, sana namatay na lang ako. Sobra-sobra po ang ghuwa nisa sa akin (Often I would think, I should just have died. What they did to me was

I WISH/A6

AN ANGRY Teresita Ang-Son (left) lectures the accused on proper decorum in court.

AMSTERDAM—A 28-YEAR-OLD SOUTH

Korean died of heart failure last year after playing a game called "StarCraft" for 50 hours at an Internet café. The parents of a 13-year-old Chinese boy who killed himself after playing a computer game for 36 hours are suing the game's licensed Chinese distributor.

"Gaming is the greatest danger to young people that has ever come along," said addiction expert Keith Bakker, who is offering the serenity of a 16th century townhouse on one of Amsterdam's canals to coax those trapped in the fantasy world of online games back to reality. The townhouse, where sunlight

warms the honey-colored wood of the centuries-old floors, houses Europe's first clinic for people hooked on playing online games.

The clinic is run by addiction consultants Smith & Jones, who felt there was a need for treatment even though experts are still debating whether excessive game playing is an addiction.

"We started seeing it about two years ago, people started coming in with gaming as sort of a secondary problem," said Smith & Jones director Bakker, 45.

"Then, we got one kid in who was gaming 18 hours a day and I wanted to

FIRST-EVER/A17



Friday, July 14, 2006 ★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 216 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Top prize in bad writing goes to detective spoof

LOS ANGELES—AN opening sentence containing a burrito, an angel and a shovel was judged appalling enough to win a coveted annual literary parody prize early this week.

TOP PRIZE/A8



# Palace gave 'victory' dinner for bishops

Religious affairs usec hosted after CBCP meeting

By Christian V. Esguerra

MALACAÑANG ARRANGED what appeared to be a victory dinner for prelates sympathetic to President Macapagal-Arroyo after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines decided to stay away from fresh efforts to impeach her, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

A CBCP source, who did not wish to be named for fear of compromising his position in the Church hierarchy, said the affair was arranged by Fatima "Nena" Valdes, undersecretary for religious affairs. The source described the dinner party as a "reward."

The reported emergence of Valdes in the apparent Palace effort to influence the outcome of the CBCP plenary over the weekend appeared to contradict claims by pro-Arroyo congressmen that the reports were "the



OUT IN THE COLD. It's not high enough to keep him dry but this is it for a boy who needs refuge from the stormy elements. He sneaks into a nook under a makeshift awning of a sari-sari store in Malabon. Pagara says tropical storm "Florita" is exiting the country today and heading for Taiwan. (Story on Page A15.)

REUTERS

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FIRST-EVER/A17



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. And the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. Rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have cloudy cloudy skies with rain showers.

COMPILED BY KATEV PEDROSO FOR RESEARCH/07/13/04 SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr\_news@inquirer.com.ph

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006

## Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Bulacan	Stormy	Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Partly Cloudy
Looc	Stormy	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Tacloban	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Bacolod	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Zambales	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Rains	Partly Cloudy
Davao	Rains	Partly Cloudy

# Poll commissioners snub probe

COMMISSION ON Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and other incumbent commissioners named respondents in the Ombudsman case in connection with the voided billion-peso poll automation contract snubbed yesterday's hearing.

The lawyers for Abalos, Florentino Tuason and Resurreccion Borrà also questioned the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman panel conducting a preliminary investigation over impeachable officials with constitutional mandate as election commissioners.

"Since Borrà is an impeachable official, it follows that a fiscal ought to dismiss any charge brought against him," said Borrà's lawyer Gabriel Villareal before the panel tasked to look further into the Comelec officials' liability over the botched deal.

Federico Alday, the lawyer of Abalos and Tuason, added that before the Ombudsman could investigate the case against his clients, there must first be an administrative case of serious misconduct filed before the Ombudsman.

"Very much doubt the power, the jurisdiction of this honorable body to conduct clarificatory hearing," Alday said.

Alday said his clients are willing to appear before the Ombudsman but only when it has rendered a ruling that clarifies the questions of jurisdiction the office has over the respondent commissioners.

Lawyer Alfredo Lazaro, counsel



NO SHOW. Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni and special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio (right) listen to Federico Alday, lawyer of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., explain the Comelec commissioners' absence in yesterday's Ombudsman preliminary investigation. JOHN RONDAC

for Mega Pacific Consortium, said his clients didn't appear on the first day of the clarificatory hearing because they have already been named as accused in a graft case in the Ombudsman resolution that also recommended the impeachment of Borrà on June 28.

"They are no longer ordinary witnesses. They are already accused," Lazaro said.

The clarificatory hearings were set to conduct further inquiry on the culpability of Abalos and the other commissioners involved in the approval of the 2003 Mega Pacific deal, which would have covered the automation of the 2004 presidential election.

The contract was voided by the Supreme Court for being overpriced and disadvantageous to

the government despite the insistence of the Comelec commissioners and the Mega Pacific that it was above board.

The Ombudsman panel headed by Orlando Casimiro released its findings on June 30 and recommended the impeachment of Borrà and criminal charges against a few other Comelec officials.

The Ombudsman said then Aba-

los and other commissioners were to be subject to further investigation.

The initial findings were released on June 30 to beat the Supreme Court deadline for the Ombudsman to complete its preliminary investigation.

Yesterday, the high court has set another deadline, this time unextendable, on Aug. 15 for the panel to complete its recommendations.

Norman Bordadora

God is my only judge  
—Arroyo

THE MOST UNPOPULAR PRESIDENT in the country's history does not care how history will look upon her term in Malacañang because she considers God as her only judge.

"I'm not going after being a great president, I just want to be a good president and not even necessarily in history. (Because) in the end, who is going to judge whether one is good or not?" said President Macapagal-Arroyo when asked how she wanted to be remembered as President of the country.

The President's popularity ratings are the lowest among all Philippine presidents, much worse than Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph "Erap" Estrada both of whom were kicked out of office through people power revolts.

Despite spending a substantial part of her first five years in office to woo the opposition and satisfy her critics with anticorruption and pro-poor programs, the President continues to be the target of brickbats from almost all segments of society from bishops to the military to politicians to student activists.

In her interview with a local radio station, the President appears to have stopped caring what other people think of her administration.

"We were all born to serve God and in the end it's going to be God who will judge who has been good and who has not been good. (Whether I was good president), that's for the Lord to determine at the end of my life," said the President.

## Gov't moves back balanced budget target to 2010

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RULING out the possibility of moving its target for a balanced budget to 2010 from 2008 as it pursues more infrastructure and social services spending, two budget officials said yesterday.

The government is also open to

raising next year's budget deficit target from the programmed P63 billion to increase spending, they told Reuters.

"We have to catch up and increase spending for education, health and infrastructure," Budget Secretary

Rolando Alkaya said by phone.

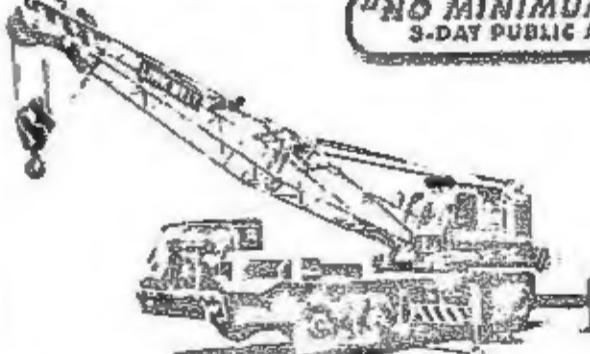
The government originally planned to wipe out its budget deficit by 2010 but adjusted the goal to two years earlier given extra revenues from a broader and higher national sales tax, as well as new tax laws.

Reuters

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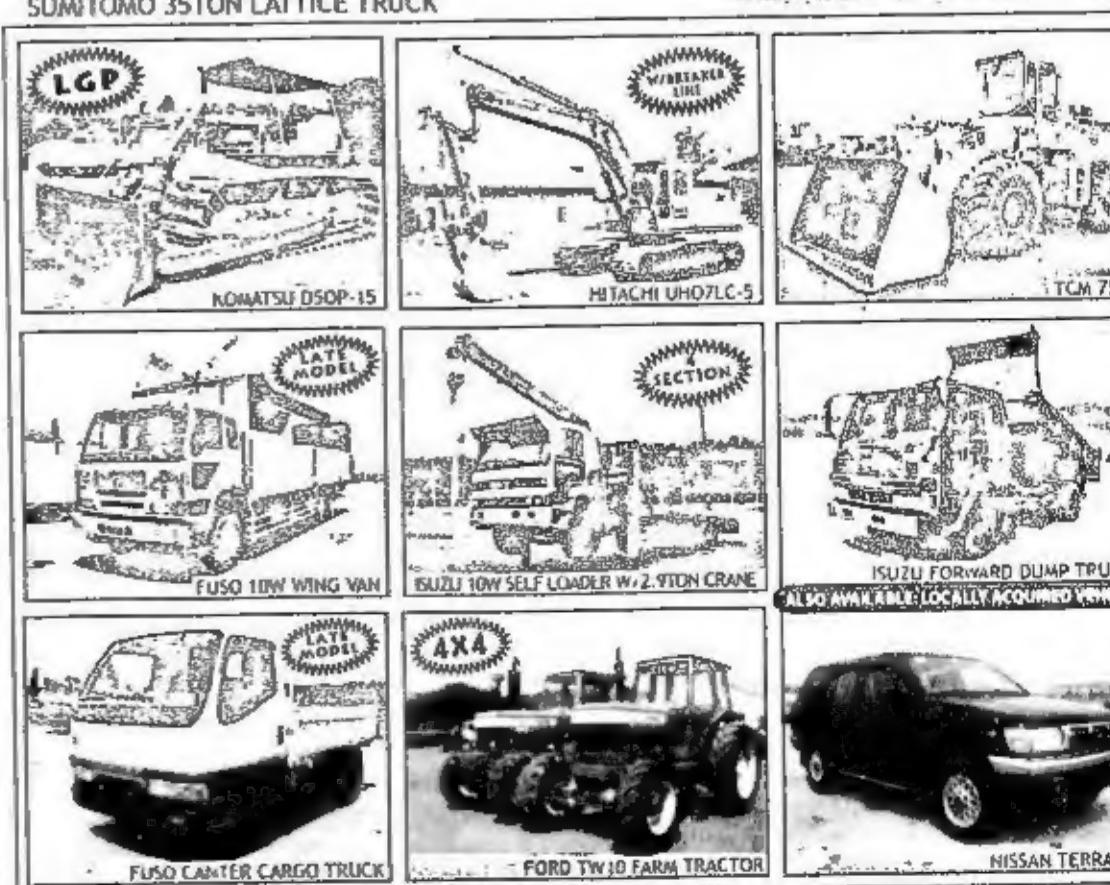
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# Senga was 'used' to cheat in polls, says plotter

By Fe Zamora and Dona Pazzibugan

**AN ADMISSION** BY ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga that he was also "used" to cheat in the May 2004 elections showed Senga supported the plan by rebel soldiers to withdraw support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, an Inquirer source privy to the plot said.

According to the source, Senga issued the admission in the presence of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim,

Marines Col. Ariel Querubin and Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang hours before Lim and Querubin were to lead a military breakaway march on Edsa on the morning of Feb. 24.

The source, a key player of the planned breakaway march who granted the Inquirer a personal interview during the week, quoted Senga as having told them that "I was also used in the cheating."

"Why would General Senga confess his role in the May 2004 elections if he did not agree with the plot?" said the Inquirer mili-

tary source.

Senga, however, flatly denied making such an admission when contacted yesterday.

"I was never involved in any cheating in the 2004 elections so I could not have told anyone anything like that," Senga said when asked if he told Lim, Querubin and Maclang that he had been "used" in election cheating activities for Ms Arroyo.

The discovery of the February plot, which Ms Arroyo called a conspiracy of leftists and rightist

groups, prompted the President to declare a week-long state of emergency and led to the relief of Lim as chief of the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR) and Querubin as brigade commander in the Philippine Marines.

During the May 2004 elections, Senga, who will retire on Friday, July 21, was chief of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division in Central Mindanao, where election fraud was also reported to have been committed.

But Senga's name was not

mentioned in the controversial "Hello Garcí" tapes, the alleged product of the wiretapping of the telephone conversations between Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and several personalities, including Ms Arroyo and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

But three generals, namely Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Lt. Gen. Habacon were mentioned in the tapes as having thrown their support behind Ms Arroyo's candidacy, while retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani was mentioned as being pro-opposition.

Esperon has denied involvement in any wrongdoing during the elections. He has also been named by Ms Arroyo as the next AFP chief of staff when Senga retires.

An unofficial military report on the events of Feb. 23 and 24 disclosed that Lim and Querubin told Maclang about the withdrawal of support plot at around 6 p.m. of Feb. 23.

## Solons ask: Give Esperon a chance

MEMBERS OF THE House committee on national defense and security yesterday expressed their support for the appointment of Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon as the new armed forces chief of staff and urged his detractors to give him a chance to prove his leadership.

Esperon, according to Davao City Rep. Vincent Garcia, and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, committee vice chair and member respectively, is highly qualified for his new post, being one of the AFP service commanding generals.

Garcia and Puentevella, in a press statement, said it was improper for the opposition to be using the "Hello Garcí" issue to question Esperon's appointment since it is a political issue which has no bearing in the selection process of the AFP chief of staff.

### Loyal

Garcia said Esperon has the support of AFP officials and there is no doubt he can rally his men to be loyal to the chain of command and the Constitution.

"No less than outgoing AFP chief Gen. Generoso Senga has vouched for him. As underscored by Gen. Esperon, the AFP's focus is on their operations to remove all threats to national security," he said.

The Nationalist People's Coalition solon also expressed confidence Esperon will hurdle the Commission on Appointments.

"We urge the public not to prejudge or misjudge Gen. Esperon and give him a chance to prove his merit of leadership. President Arroyo has given weight on his qualifications and track record in choosing him to lead the AFP. Let us abide by this executive decision."

Puentevella said it was unfair for Esperon's detractors to be vilifying him in media without allowing him first to perform as the new AFP chief of staff.

"Let's allow Gen. Esperon to do his task then judge him later on the basis of his performance and that of the AFP under him," Puentevella said.

Puentevella said Esperon's critics can just file charges against him in the proper courts instead of using him to gain political advantage. "He has said that he's willing to face his accusers. Hence, his critics should use the proper forum not Congress because it is not within the lawmakers' power to determine his guilt and mete him punitive actions."

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# Breastfeeding issue goes to SC

By Armand N. Nocum

**THE ISSUE OF WHETHER BREAST** milk is better than the manufactured substitute has spilled over from the bedroom and nursery into the Supreme Court.

A group of pharmaceutical and health care manufacturers has filed a petition against eight health officials led by Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III for the alleged imposition of an "absolute ban" on advertising, marketing, promotion, product sampling, or sponsorship of breast milk substitutes.

In a petition dated June 27, the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHCAP) blamed the "Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations

(RIRR) of Executive Order 51—also known as the Milk Code—which then President Aquino signed into law in 1986 to regulate the proper use of breast milk substitutes.

Although the law was issued in 1986, the revised implementing rules and regulations were promulgated only last May and became effective last July 7.

In its petition, the PHCAP said the RIRR "impairs the constitutional right of the people (to) access to information" on breast milk substitutes.

They said the RIRR was "fundamentally flawed" because it claimed that "breast-feeding substitutes are hazardous to health and that breast-feeding is the exclusive means to nourish infants and [that] there is no substitute or

replacement for breast milk."

The milk manufacturers also claimed that the RIRR "baselessly expanded its application to 'young children' beyond 2 years old when the mandate of the Milk Code only covers infants up to 12 months old."

"Thus, the RIRR brings the entire business activities of milk companies within its coverage," the milk manufacturers said.

They also took the RIRR to task for "injustly" imposing more labeling requirements concerning the advantages of breast milk over manufactured milk "beyond the prescription of the law."

The group claimed that the strict implementation of the RIRR would cause milk manufacturers to "suffer grave and irreparable damage."

Thus, they said the RIRR was "unconstitutional for violating the due process clause of the Constitution," arguing that only Congress can amend the Milk Code.

They also said the RIRR constituted "restraint of trade."

The PHCAP is made up of domestic and foreign milk manufacturers and dealers that include Abbot Laboratories, Wyeth Phil., Mead Johnson, Bayer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline and Mercury Drug Corp.

Charged along with Duque were health undersecretaries Ethelyn Nieto, Margarita Galon, Alexander Padilla, Josie R. del Mundo and assistant secretaries Mario Villaverde, David Lozada and Nemesio Gako.



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katulungan ng Department of Agriculture  
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## Singapore scholarship for 6 Pinoy students

**THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAS** awarded the 2006 Singapore Scholarship to six outstanding Filipino students, two of whom hail from Mindanao, its embassy said.

Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines, Lim Kheng Hua, presented the awards to the six scholars in a ceremony at the Heritage Hotel on Tuesday which was attended by acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo.

The six scholars are Kristine Paula Aquino and Rocky Andaya from Ateneo de Manila University; Carlo Antonio Cabrera from Colegio de San Agustin and Jennifer Francis Ong from Immaculate Conception Academy. The two scholars from Mindanao are Kristine Buenacos and Kristin Jessica Fabregas of Ateneo de Davao High School.

Addressing the "young ambassadors of the Philippines," Ambassador Lim encouraged them to study hard as well as make time to network and understand the way of life in Singapore. She reminded them that "each of you can play an important role in enhancing mutual understanding between the peoples of Philippines and Singapore."

## Correction

IN THE JULY 12 ISSUE, a Business story on Page B2—"4-year bond rate up 187 bps to 8.37%"—misstated the type of bonds put up for auction by the Bureau of Treasury. Auctioned were 2-year—not 4-year—treasury bonds.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, China Roces Avenue corner Mascarinas Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, July 14, 2006

14th Week in Ordinary Time

Camillus de Lellis /

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10

Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans."

But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you.

Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Commentary

The people are told to return, to beg pity, to ask forgiveness, and they are assured of God's mercy, love that is freely given, and they will know freshness of life, blossoming times and splendor of the land and their lives. If only they would walk in justice! But they stumble instead.

And Jesus sends us out like sheep among wolves telling us that we must learn to walk in the world with the Spirit that is wise, nonviolent, peaceful, clever and innocent. We are to rely on God's word, even when our own treat us harshly. We are to follow in Jesus' footsteps, bringing hope and the gospel of the poor to all until the Son of Man comes in justice/judgment. Time to be faithful!

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# BIGGEST SECURITY: 14,000 TROOPS TO GUARD GMA SONA

From page A1

rebels would be coming from Southern Tagalog.

Leaders of militant groups dismissed the police statements as part of "psywar operations" meant to discourage people from joining the protest.

"They do this in every Sona, in every mobilization," said Carl Ala, information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

During last year's Sona, which took place at the height of calls for the ouster of Ms Arroyo due to the "Hello Garc!" scandal, the NCRPO deployed some 5,000 troops. While the President was applauded by her allies in Congress, at least 40,000 protesters filled the road leading to the Batasan.

**Protests**

The documents included blueprints of the legislature and surveillance pictures of the area. Also seized were explosives,



**THE TIGHTEST EVER SECURITY** for a Sona will mark the opening of the 13th Congress on July 24. NCRPO Director Vidal Querol (not in photo) presided over the meeting which also included among other government agencies the MMA and DPWH. JOHN BONDOC



**SECURITY MEASURES** are now in place two weeks in the runup to Ms Arroyo's Sona after the arrest of eight alleged coup plotters in a safehouse near the Batasan Pambansa complex last Friday.

weapons and laptop computers.

The President's address has traditionally been used by left-wing and other opposition groups for antigovernment demonstrations involving thousands, but police have always prevented them from coming close to Congress.

This year, she will again be greeted by protests, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is president of the United Opposition (UNO), said in a press briefing.

"We are still planning it, but definitely there will be a mass action. It will be a venue for the people to raise the issue about the killings and abductions," Binay said, referring to the rash of slayings and the disappearance of left-wing activists all over the country.

Carol Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said this year's protests would highlight resistance to Ms Arroyo's "all-out war" against the communist New People's Army and to plans to change the 1987 Constitution.

Bayan yesterday sought a permit from the office of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte for a mammoth rally along Commonwealth Avenue on July 24. More than 20,000 people are expected to join, it said.

**Grenade-throwing?**

Querol said the security preparations also were prompted by intelligence reports that communist rebels will disrupt the event allegedly by throwing a grenade at protesters to "ignite antigovernment sentiments."

"We have intelligence (information) received saying if there would be a huge protest and a dispersal, communist (rebels) might lob grenades," he said. But he acknowledged that the report was two days old and needed to be verified.

He refused to divulge specific details of the information, except to say that the

rebels would be coming from Southern Tagalog.

Leaders of militant groups dismissed the police statements as part of "psywar operations" meant to discourage people from joining the protest.

"They do this in every Sona, in every mobilization," said Carl Ala, information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

During last year's Sona, which took place at the height of calls for the ouster of Ms Arroyo due to the "Hello Garc!" scandal, the NCRPO deployed some 5,000 troops. While the President was applauded by her allies in Congress, at least 40,000 protesters filled the road leading to the Batasan.

**Overkill?**

Querol said he did not find this year's large deployment an "overkill."

"When you think of security, you have to come up with something that you are comfortable with. You don't want to be in a panic mode," he said. "We are going to employ layers and layers of security."

In a letter dated July 12 but filed on July 13, Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. asked Mayor Belmonte to allow his group and its affiliate organizations to hold a protest march and demonstration on Commonwealth Avenue and Batasan Road, in front of the public market.

The program will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the Fairview-bound lane, Reyes said.

**No rally zone**

But authorities said that as in past years, the 3-km stretch from the St. Peter's Parish Church to the Commission on Audit building along Commonwealth would be a no-rally zone.

The protesters will be allowed only up to the church, Querol said. Only the progovernment group will be allowed to stay between the Commission on Audit and Fairview, he said.

**Ridicule**

On Wednesday, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said the military rebels' plot included operations "designed to embarrass and cause ridicule" to senior administration officials, including former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

A military statement belittled the plot's chance of success, saying the mutineers had "no significant specific forces," were lacking in firearms and most of the "key personalities involved in the planning are already neutralized."

Officials have immediately dismissed "Oplan Trident" as wishful thinking on the part of the rebel soldiers, who allegedly tried but failed to recruit the same soldiers who joined the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

In an interview with RMN radio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said it was good that authorities were able to arrest the six Magdalo officers because they were able to prevent them and other rebel soldiers from carrying out their latest plot.

"It's a good thing that authorities caught up with them," Ermita said.

When told the documents supposedly seized from the six Magdalo soldiers did not say when "Oplan Trident" would take place, Querol was momentarily thrown off balance when asked how long he would keep the Batasan Complex under such heavy guard.

"We'll see," he said. With reports from Teria V. Quismundo, Luigie A. del Puerto, Christine O. Avendaño and AP

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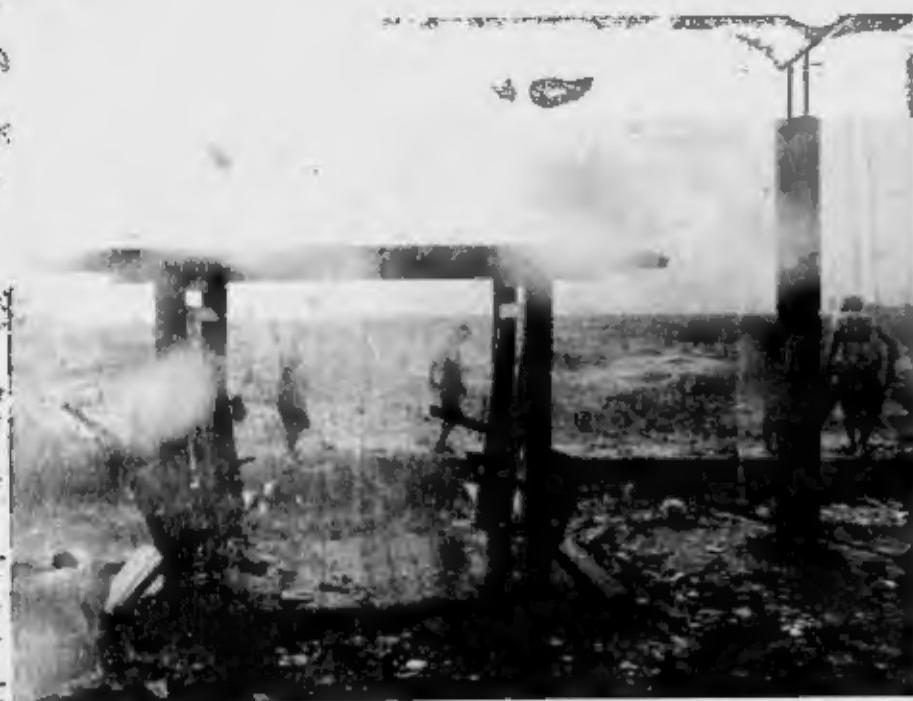
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SUCKERS FOR BASKETBALL, NOT SOCCER: In Candon City, Ilocos Sur, children play the nation's favorite game despite flooding brought about by "Florita." The Ilocos region has been experiencing heavy rainfall the past two days.

## GMA cheated but won 2004 polls, says Lipa bishop

By Marion Ramos  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LIPA CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo had resorted to cheating to win the 2004 presidential elections, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said Wednesday.

But the Lipa City archbishop claimed that even if she had not cheated, Ms Arroyo would still have won over her rivals.

"Talaga namang nandaya, eh... Pero kahit nandaya, maliwanag naman na si Presidente ang naman. Hindi siguro ate million (votes) pero siguro mga ilang hundred thousand," Arguelles told the INQUIRER.

"There was cheating but it was not enough to change the results of the elections," he added.

Arguelles likewise said Ms Arroyo was not the only one who

defrauded the Filipino voters but the opposition as well.

"Lahat ramon nandaya, eh. Nabi-kong yung iba sa dayon," he said. When asked what was his basis for saying that there was election fraud, the bishop said the information came from church volunteers during the balloting.

Despite his claims, Arguelles believed that the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo was

not the right answer to ferret out the truth in the scandals hounding the President.

Arguelles said the Filipino people were simply tired of too much politicking and would not support the second impeachment case against the President.

He said the impeachment case would not prosper as it lacked the support of lawmakers. "It's useless," he said.

He said bishops were not against impeachment, referring to their pastoral statement on Monday.

"We just said it would bring nothing good for the people because the intentions were doubtful," he explained.

Instead, Arguelles said the people should work together in the formation of a truth commission that would look into the allegations against Ms Arroyo.



BISHOP ARGUELLES FILEPHOTO

## Palace gave 'victory' dinner for some bishops

From page A1

devil's handiwork... meant to discredit not only the Palace but also the Church."

The INQUIRER attempted but failed to get a comment from Valdes, who holds office in Malacañang.

In the pastoral statement issued on Monday, the CBCP said it was "not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as a means of establishing the truth" on whether Ms Arroyo manipulated the 2004 vote. Critics have denounced the CBCP position as vague and ambiguous.

Valdes, together with a certain "Attorney Adriano" and their staff, was also behind the reported distribution of envelopes containing cash to bishops during their weekend retreat and plenary.

Valdes signed the letter offering cheap rice and low-cost medicines to some of the poorest dioceses in the country incidentally headed by known anti-Arroyo bishops.

This letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, was distributed to dioceses earlier this year.



SALUDO: Unexpected guest

The INQUIRER source in the CBCP said Undersecretary Valdes had arranged the dinner on Sunday upon the conclusion of the bishops' plenary at a restaurant near where they had met at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue in Manila.

INQUIRER sources earlier reported that Malacañang had offered relief aid for Church projects for the poor as they gathered in Manila for their weekend plenary and handed out envelopes to the bishops containing P15,000 to P30,000.

Some of the bishops reportedly returned the envelopes. Other prelates saw nothing wrong in Malacañang offers of relief aid to the poor as they prepared to sit down and discuss a stand on the worst political crisis to hit the 5-year-old Arroyo administration.

### 'Malicious insinuations'

Last month, the opposition filed impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, reviving charges last year that she stole the May 2004 presidential election and including fresh accusations she engaged in political killings. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

statement on Monday.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach for comment Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP spokesperson. Earlier, he said many bishops were aware of possible "political underpinnings" attached to gifts, favors, or treats coming from the Arroyo administration.

### Envelope returned

During the weekend plenary, the INQUIRER source said Bishop Jose Mangurian of Dipolog received two envelopes from the Malacañang visitors. Upon returning to his room at Pope Pius, the prelate was surprised to see that the two envelopes each contained P15,000.

"He immediately wrote a letter and asked a priest to return the envelopes to Malacañang right away," the source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

For the Sunday dinner, Valdes ferried the group of about a dozen bishops to a nearby restaurant on board at least three "white vehicles," including a white Mitsubishi Pajero.

"They left a little past 7 p.m., shortly after the deliberations were finished," according to the source who said he had seen the group leave.

The bishops from northern Luzon blamed politics for what they said were attempts to smear the Church and government's propoor programs.

### 'Excessive politicking'

"The root of this controversy is again the bane of excessive politicking, which gives unwarranted political color to even the well-meaning activities jointly undertaken by the Church and the government for the sole benefit of the poor," the bishops said.

"We are glad to advise the government where the needy are in our parishes, and to provide conduits for state assistance, especially where there are limited government facilities," they said.

"In private dialogues with the government and in public pronouncements, the bishops (have) always expressed our undiluted ethical perspectives," they said.

The bishops also appealed to the media not to rely on "anonymous sources and hearsays" in publishing reports damaging to the Church and that they should verify facts in accordance with journalism canons.

Villena strongly denied allega-

tions that envelopes were handed out during the plenary deliberations. "I was there, but I did not see anyone who looked like an emissary and was handing out envelopes. Besides, bishops are not that cheap," he said.

The bishop said the donations, which were part of the government's poverty alleviation program, were being channeled through the Church because of its credibility.

### Cabinet visitor

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said in Lipa City on Wednesday that Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo unexpectedly showed up last week at the New World Hotel in Makati City where businessman Lino Libron had given a "blowout" for Zamboanga Bishop Carmelo Morelos on his 39th year of ordination as bishop.

Arguelles said Saludo had asked Libron to let him attend the meeting to explain Malacañang's position on Charter change. He said there was nothing wrong with Saludo's effort and Saludo did not pay for the meals. With reports from Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Marion Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to deter smugglers

From page A1

worth of hard currency denominated in P1 to Japan, where demand for metals is high.

It was the fourth coin smuggling attempt stopped by the government since last year.

"It has become more attractive because of high commodity prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

### Antismuggling efforts

Based on BSP estimates, P5.6 million worth of coins have so far been seized in antismuggling operations.

The first coin smuggling foiled last year was P1.2 million worth of 25-centavo coins recovered

from an export processing zone.

On Feb. 18, the government also foiled the smuggling of P971,000 worth of P1 coins and another attempt to ship out P400,000 worth of P1 coins last May.

Philippine laws prohibit taking out over P10,000 worth of Philippine currency without declaring it to the BOC.

### Surging world prices

The recently confiscated P1 coins can yield more than 13 tons or 13,725 kilos of copper and over 4 tons, or 4,575 kilos of nickel.

World copper prices are almost at \$8,000 a ton while nickel

prices are around \$23,000 a ton.

Last Friday, copper prices surged by more than 6 percent to \$7,890 a ton as more hedge funds, banks and other investors poured out more money in commodities, driving up the price of other metals.

Nickel prices are at their highest level since 1987.

North Korea's test-firing of missiles last week also helped jack up metal prices in the world market.

### Looming shortage

But Tetangco said smuggling was not necessarily the biggest reason behind the looming shortage of coins in some regions of

the country.

He said there was about P2 billion worth of peso coins currently in circulation, but these coins were not being recirculated effectively.

Tetangco said some were stashed away in jars and piggy banks, for instance.

As of end-2005, there were 11.1 billion pieces of coins in circulation, 6.7 billion pieces of which were low-denomination coins. This brought coins per capita to 121, way above the ASEAN standard of 50 pieces.

### Legal tender defined

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has already approved

a new legal tender definition that seeks to "encourage the public to use coins in day-to-day transactions."

The BSP is set to issue a circular that would allow the public to make payments of up to P1,000 using coins denominated in P1, P5 and P10 or a combination of these. For coins denominated in 25 centavos or less, any transaction worth up to P100 shall be considered legal tender.

Prior to this ruling, the vendor has the right to refuse payment in excess of P50 when a buyer is using coins denominated in 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10.

For coins of even lower denominations—1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is even lower at P20.

### Awareness campaign

The BSP also obtained support from the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board as well as various transport groups to raise awareness and encourage the public to accept and use coins regularly to keep them circulating.

The BSP has been increasing its coin production. In 2000, it produced only some 558 million pieces of coin. By 2002, it had increased coin production to almost 1.1 billion pieces. In 2004, it produced almost 1.2 billion coins.

## Top prize in bad writing goes to detective spoof

From page A1

Retired mechanical designer Jim Guigui of California won top honors in San Jose State University's Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest for bad writing, which challenges entrants to submit their worst opening sentence of an imaginary novel.

Guigui's winning entry read: "Detective Bart Lasiter was in his office studying the light from his one small window falling on his super burrito when the door swung open to reveal a woman whose body said you've had your

last burrito for a while, whose face said angels did exist, and whose eyes said she could make you dig your own grave and lick the shovel clean."

### Started 24 years ago

"The judges were impressed by his appalling powers of invention," said Scott Rice, a professor in SJU's Department of English and Comparative Literature. He has organized the bad writing contest since its inception 24 years ago.

Guigui's powers of invention

and his determination to succeed—he submitted 60 different entries—also won him a "distinguished mention" in the historical fiction category.

"My motivation for entering the contest was to find a constructive outlet for my dementia," quipped Guigui, who will receive "a pittance" for his winning entry, a bit of cash that he said he may put toward the purchase of a motor boat.

Guigui's work for the contest represents a sampling of a career that never quite developed for

the retired mechanical designer. "At one time I thought I wanted to become the immortal words: 'It was a dark and stormy night.'

The contest began as a quiet campus affair and now attracts thousands of entries from around the world. But the grand prize winner receives only a pittance and other winners "must content themselves with becoming household names," organizers say.

The 2006 runner-up, Stuart Vasepuru from Scotland, played famous with one of the most famous pieces of dialogue from the Clint

Eastwood movie "Dirty Harry."

"I know what you're thinking, punk," hissed Wordy Harry to his new editor. "You're thinking, 'Did he use six superfluous adjectives or only five?'"—and to tell the truth, I forgot myself in all this excitement; but being as this is English, the most powerful language in the world, whose subtle nuances will blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel loquacious?'—well do you, punk?" Reports from Reuters and AP

# Super-regions a blueprint for federalism—Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A PLAN BY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO to divide the Philippines into four economic super-regions may well be the blueprint for federalism in a post-Charter change scenario.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita admitted as much at a briefing at the Clark Special Economic Zone yesterday.

"Yes, we can say that. The President has been addressing the local governments' concerns about imperial Manila," said Ermita.

The government has identified four super-regions that are to be turned into investment and development areas—North Luzon (to include the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region), including the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija), Metro Luzon (Central Luzon and Calabarzon regions and Metro Manila), Central Philippines (Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas) and Mindanao (Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsargen and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Ermita said the super-region strategy was designed to give governors and mayors direct access to official development assistance funds without having to go through central government agencies to speed up the construction of infrastructure projects in their communities.

## Solid support

"The President is giving the local government officials more importance because she knows that our economy moves with what is happening in the provinces," Ermita said.

Local government officials became the most solid support of Ms Arroyo during the most serious political crisis she faced last year as well as the most rabid promoters of her Charter change campaign.

The governors and mayors have agreed to aggressively pursue the campaign to change the present form of government from a presidential-bicameral to a parliamentary unicameral system through a people's initiative despite opposition from the influential Catholic bishops.

The President was at Clark yesterday, the last stop of her national consultations with regional development councils in each of the proposed super-regions.

In her opening statement, the President said the consultations were meant to gather inputs for her State of the Nation Address later this month in which she will outline her super-region strategy.

as one of her policy initiatives in the next 12 months.

"We envision developing the economic landscape for the better because each super-region or sub-economy has its own natural competitive advantage and we will build on that," Ms Arroyo said.

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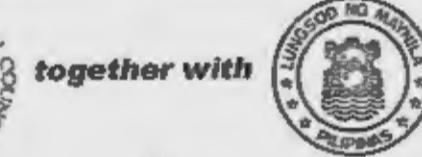
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**PILOT**

PILOT

# Lapus unfazed by DepEd union's protest threat

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

**I**F UNION MEMBERS WANT TO SET up barricades to bar incoming Education Secretary Jesli Lapus from reporting for work, they should make sure they do it outside of office hours, Lapus said yesterday.

"They can hold rallies as long as there is no disruption of work and they do not use government resources," said the congressman from Tarlac.

Lapus called a press conference yesterday in a restaurant strip half a kilometer away from the Department of Education main office on Meralco Ave. in Pasig, where Domingo Alidon, president of the Department of

Education National Employees' Union, later led a small rally.

Surrounded by at least seven DepEd employees carrying posters which said "DepEd Off-Limits bay Jesli Lapus," Alidon reiterated what he said was the position of at least 40,000 members of the union.

"The department needs an academician, not a politician," Alidon said, speaking into a megaphone.

He said the union would organize nationwide rallies the moment Lapus reports for work.

Lapus appeared cool about the union's threat.

"I understand that all secretaries have experienced this kind of attitude," he said, adding he would ask the union leaders to his office the

moment he reports for work possibly at the end of the month.

"If there is good faith, we will not have any problems. But if there is no good faith, we can't make somebody agree if his objective is to disagree," Lapus said.

But since Alidon and his group appear unstoppable, Lapus said the protest actions should be "within the bounds of the law."

"I hope they don't do any disruption and illegal acts. If order is imposed on them, they would probably create another story out of that," he said.

But Lapus need not have worried about any disruptions. Yesterday's rally was held at noon, during the employees' lunch break.

Alidon said they would meet with Lapus but only after the planned barricade.

He said the union would rather have Pe Hidalgo, who has been officer in charge of the department for almost a year now, as the permanent secretary.

Lapus said he had already talked with Hidalgo and that she had agreed to stay at the department in her current position as undersecretary.

"We had a very pleasant meeting for about three hours [on Wednesday]. She told me she had never entertained the idea she would become Secretary," Lapus said.

Sought to comment on observations that the post was a re-

ward from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lapus said "you have my resume."

The resume, distributed to reporters before the press conference began, introduced Lapus as "the epitome of excellence in versatility."

It also said he was the "first Filipino and the youngest" managing director of Triumph International Philippines, a clothing company. He was also listed as having been a "Manila's Best Dressed Men Awardee."

Lapus was also cited as the "youngest" president and chief executive officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines which he headed from 1992 to 1998.

The resume also credited Lapus

as the "Champion of Public School Teachers" for exposing in Congress the multi-billion-peso automatic deductions scheme which victimized 300,000 public school teachers.

Lapus said he had "taken a lead role in solving the fiscal crisis" last year, spearheading the passage of tax-reform bills that the President had certified.

He said Hidalgo had also told him he was a "wise choice" for the post.

In a phone interview, Hidalgo said she could not remember the exact adjective she had used.

"With the scarce knowledge I have of him, I can say he was a good choice. I trust the choice of the President," Hidalgo said.

## Former banker unveils program for education

By Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—DEVELOPING THE HUMAN component and financial engineering of the Department of Education are the top priorities of newly appointed Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

To do this, Lapus said he was looking at two approaches—school-based management and playing "catch-up" with the education budget to wipe out the system's accumulated backlog.

Lapus, who is on his final term as representative of Tarlac's third congressional district, dismissed accusations that he would be education secretary for only a year and that his appointment was some kind of preparation for a senatorial candidacy.

"I wouldn't have accepted the post if it was only for a year. What can you do in a year?" said the 56-year-old Lapus, adding that those opposing his appointment should first see what he was capable of doing.

### Ninoy's nephew

Lapus, a nephew of the martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., is the third Tarlaqueño to be appointed education secretary. The two others were the Marcos-era secretaries Carlos P. Romulo and Onofre D. Corpuz, who were both from Camiling town.

In looking at the problems of the education department, Lapus posed this question: Different schools, different quality, why is that?

"Because those who are in charge of the schools like the principals and supervisors do not look at themselves as managers. They do not even look at their secretary as a manager," he answered his own question.

Lapus said the DepEd has the biggest human resource of all government departments and this should be made the priority.

"Developing the managerial skills and capabilities of those who are in charge of the schools is an important factor in achieving bet-



LAPUS

ter quality education as they are the ones on the ground. What we want to see is a quality standard present in all the schools," he said.

"The quality of classroom education is determined by teacher quality. Much of this has to do with matching and getting the right educators with the right majors. There should be closer ties and consistency between the majors required by the schools with those produced by higher education," he said.

Lapus, a former bank president, said the "aim by 2007 is for the DepEd to get what it is due" in terms of funding.

### Business as usual'

"Increase in budgeting should be on a catch-up basis to address the huge backlog," he said.

Right now, he said the current budget increase for the DepEd is P2 billion a year which he describes as "business as usual."

According to Lapus, catching up would require that the annual growth rate in enrollment, projected at 2 percent a year, and inflation should be factored into the budget.

This means the DepEd's budget should increase by 6 percent for 2007 or, if one is to follow a World Bank recommendation, an increase of 11 percent, or P12 billion.

If this is done, the succeeding years up to 2015 would also require an annual increase of P8 billion for the department budget. By 2015, it is expected that the actual budget satisfies accrual needs, Lapus said.

To criticisms that he is no educator, Lapus said his closest claim to academic life was being a student and having taught at the Ateneo de Manila University, Maryknoll College and the Asian Institute of Management.

"But one need not necessarily have a doctorate in education to be an effective and efficient secretary of the department," he said.

### 'Enterprise in crisis'

He called the DepEd an "enterprise in crisis."

"The first step in leading an enterprise out of a crisis is to address the human component, relieving it of excess baggage, myths and misconceptions, breaking molds and then rewarding for productivity and efficiency," he said.

In terms of breaking molds, Lapus cited as an example the bill he pursued as a neophyte lawmaker that led to the streamlining of the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports' automatic-salary-deduction system on teachers' loans.

This system subjected some 300,000 public school teachers to more than 100 percent interest rates per annum and zero net take-home pay.

"As I said then, having nothing to bring home had a telling effect on a teacher's performance in school," he said.

Lapus considers what he calls his track record in putting "human resources at the frontline" as a plus factor in managing a department with the biggest human resource in government.

He was chief finance officer of Ramcar Group of Companies, managing director and chief operating officer of Triumph International, and president of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He recalls that when he was first appointed to Ramcar, he was greeted with taunts of, "What does Lapus know about batteries?"

"But it wasn't a question of batteries. It was a company in a crisis industry that was barely surviving within a crisis economy," he said.

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# Gov't needs P102B a year to save public school system

By Philip C. Tubaiza

**TO SAVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM,** the government would have to spend for the next nine years another P102 billion each year on top of the annual education budget, a top House leader said yesterday.

From 2007 to 2015, the government will have to shell out P11.35 billion annually in addition to the P112 billion yearly budget for education to restore the "glory of the country's public school system," said House Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas.

"This is the additional funding required to methodically wipe out the system's critical resource shortages, implement reforms needed to fully address quality, access and equity issues, and at the same time allow for inflation and enrollment growth," Gullas said.

"Congress is duty-bound to find ways to willfully bridge the funding gap if we are to renew the brilliance of our public school system," he added.

## Rapid decline

The Cebu congressman noted that a few decades ago even those families that were able to afford to send their children to private schools preferred to send them to public schools because they "provided superior instruction."

But over the past decade, the public school system has rapidly declined because of severe resource shortages, such as of qualified teachers, classrooms, seats and textbooks, among others, he said.

Gullas said that not counting the projected increase in enrollment next year, the system has an "underfunded backlog" of 10,517 items for teachers (at the ratio of one teacher for 45 students), 41,197 classrooms (at one classroom for 45 students), 1.5 million seats, and 41.32 million textbooks (at one book per student).

He said the proposed 2006 national budget that Congress failed to pass would have partially addressed the problem. The proposed budget provided for P2.9 billion to build 4,578 new classrooms, P2.7 billion to hire 9,200 new teachers, and P1.8 billion to buy 25.86 million new textbooks.

## Tuition increase

Gullas cited a government study that showed that since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, an estimated 160,000 students have been migrating yearly from private to public schools, "thus putting enormous strain on the system."

"The massive migration has been aggravated by tuition increases in private schools that have averaged 15 percent annually," he said.

Gullas said the proposed P119 billion education budget for 2006, while P7 billion more than the 2005 allotment, was P14 billion less than the P133 billion that the Department of Education had sought.

"Worse, the P119 billion funding was never approved because Congress failed to pass the 2006 national budget. Thus, the DepEd has to manage this year with a re-enacted budget of just P112 billion," he said.

## 'Padala' firms give banks a run for their money

**MONEY-TRANSFER FIRMS ARE TRYING** to compete with large banks by coming up with more convenient and cheaper ways of delivering the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Officials of the local remittance giant Western Union yesterday said the company was expanding its operations in the Philippines by about 20 percent by adding to its existing network of 5,000 money-transfer locations.

The expansion would involve tie-ups with rural banks, pawnshops and convenience stores, Patricia Rungen, Western Union Phil. vice president, told a press conference yesterday.

Rungen said the Western Union expansion would bolster annual in-bound remittances by encouraging OFWs and other Filipinos abroad to use official channels instead of the usual "padala" system, or asking someone to personally carry the cash.

Money-transfer firms charge less than banks for transferring money. Moreover, they deliver the funds right into the recipient's doorstep.

Rungen said most banks take between two to three days to effect a transfer. They also collect "hidden charges," depending on inter-bank arrangements, from the OFWs' remittance.

She said the Western Union's state-of-the-art technology enables customers to send or receive money anywhere in the world within minutes, even if the recipient does not have a bank account.

More and more nurses in the United States, entertainers in Japan and skilled workers in the Middle East, are using money-transfer facilities such as that offered by Western Union to remit cash to the Philippines, according to Rungen.

An Asian Development Bank study earlier projected that actual remittances from more than 8 million Filipinos abroad could reach as much as \$22 billion if those that go through informal means were also counted. Jerome Aning



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## Battering ram

**I**N SPANISH, "ESPERÓN" IS A NAUTICAL TERM that means "ram," and in the case of the next Armed Forces chief of staff, Hermogenes Esperon, the meaning is appropriate. He is a decorated officer, widely respected, even admired for his achievements in the field. He is clearly no desk-bound general. He is aggressive. And he is undoubtedly intensely loyal to his commander in chief.

**EDITORIAL** The larger question, though, is whether what is politically—and militarily—good for President Macapagal-Arroyo is good for the country or even the AFP.

It is a sign of the times that Esperon is, even this early, already being compared in some quarters to the late Gen. Fabian Ver, who was also known for his intense—even blind—loyalty to his commander in chief, Ferdinand Marcos, to the extent that he became a cause of division within the military. Expertise and bravery in the field—which Esperon has in spades—are not essential for an AFP chief of staff. Administrative ability, a certain capacity for diplomacy and, most of all, integrity are the skills and virtues that the position requires.

For all its institutional defects, the AFP, until 2004, managed to preserve an overall appearance of avoiding political partisanship in the worst sense of the word. The last presidential election changed all that. Generals Esperon, Roy Kyanko (former chief of the Southern Command) and Gabriel Habacan (presently Southcom chief) all ended up with cameo appearances in the wiretapped phone conversations between Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Arroyo.

In June, the bicameral Commission on Appointments bypassed Esperon's promotion to lieutenant general, because the AFP could not or would not produce the Mayuga report on allegations of military participation in electoral fraud. Esperon, at the time, lashed out at Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Jinggoy Estrada. Since then, the report is said to have absolved Esperon, although its full contents have not been disclosed to the public. If his promotion was stalled then on questions surrounding his conduct during the last elections, there is even more reason to go over the same ground now that he is being promoted to the top military post.

While Esperon will surely be an enthusiastic enforcer of the President's policies, his promotion can only be perceived as a case of personal loyalty trumping institutional interests. The decision of the President, whose legitimacy is under a cloud, to give a fourth star to an officer implicated in her questioned—and questionable—reelection bid only fosters the appearance that they're partners in crime.

Esperson's promotion will neither foster calm or even reconciliation within the ranks of a military agitated by allegations of senior officers participating in electoral fraud. It will not smoothen relations with Congress or assuage the fears, rightly or wrongly, in certain quarters that the administration is showing a marked interest in pursuing authoritarian solutions to its political problems. It will not enhance the prestige of the Armed Forces, or inspire confidence in the senior officer corps.

Dispensing with the incumbent AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and replacing him with Esperon do send the signal that both he and the President mean business. Whatever that business happens to be, we can be sure it will be conducted with a maximum of force and a minimum of regard for public opinion. While perhaps the administration has never had illusions that its conduct to date can ever dispel the skepticism over its motives and methods, perhaps it is more sure in its calculations that shock and awe will always carry the day.

There is no reason to think that the President will change her mind over her latest military appointment. Nor is it reasonable to expect that Esperon will back off from this fight. But it is reasonable to bring up the many troubling things that the appointment raises. After all, Congress can delay, or even block, Esperon's appointment. But having mounted the saddle at the AFP no one—neither Congress nor the public—can pull him off it, so long as he enjoys the full support of his commander in chief.

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## Biak na Bato may soon be Durog na Bato

### As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

BIAK NA BATU IN BULACAN IS AN IMPORTANT place in our history. It was here where Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros met and held secret rituals, and it was here where the Pact of Biak na Bato was concluded.

"Biak na bato" is Tagalog for "split rock." Here, a hill of solid rock rises to the sky. In the middle of the rock is a cleft so that it appears as if it was split in two. This cleft is the entrance to the caves where the Katipuneros hid from the Spaniards.

Because of the historic significance of the place, President Manuel L. Quezon in 1935 proclaimed 2,117 hectares of the area as the Biak na Bato National Park. But despite being proclaimed a protected area, Biak na Bato may soon disappear from the face of the earth if the government doesn't do something quickly. It turns out now that this massive hill is not made of ordinary rock. It is made up of a rare, rose-colored and expensive marble.

Miners or quarry operators, all but one of them illegal, are tearing the rock down with explosives, machines and pick and shovel to get the marble and even the marble dust. There are now at least 24 illegal marble cutting, limestone processing and aggregate crushing plants in Bulacan, all frantically tearing down Biak na Bato.

Only one of them, Rosemar Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC), has a valid license from the Bureau of Mines and an Environment Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is not operating now. However, dozens of illegal small-scale miners are operating there. Murders have been committed, and Bulacan's own governor is facing plunder charges before the Ombudsman because of this.

How did this happen? How can this be happening in a country with a democratic government like ours?

According to records filed in court, it goes back to the Commonwealth era, when Quezon declared Biak na Bato on Mt. Nabio as a national

park. In 1982, Dr. Alejandro de la Concha, Pedro de la Concha, Dr. Rufo Guzman and Dr. Lourdes Sempio Pascual were able to convince President Marcos that part of Biak na Bato belonged to their family since 1896 by virtue of a "Titulo Royal de Posseccoria de Sr. Joaquin de la Concha" covering an area of 5,000 hectares. In June 1982, Marcos issued Proclamation 2204 excluding 330 hectares of solid marble deposits from the national park, and this exclusion was approved by the Baratang Pambansa in the same year. Meanwhile, the group formed for the mining of the marble deposits and was subsequently given a quarry license.

RMDC started the development of the area by building roads and bunkers in 1982, but in 1986 Environment Secretary Ernesto Maceda cancelled its quarrying license. RMDC went to court and won in the regional trial court of Quezon City and in the Court of Appeals. The government appealed the decision to the Supreme Court where the case is now pending.

In the meantime, illegal miners, using dynamite, crude quarrying methods and equipment, flourished in the area. Somebody with the same surname as Dr. Lourdes Sempio Pascual, president of RMDC, using a "falsified Deed of Assignment" wherein Pascual purportedly gave to him all the rights in RMDC, issued to still another person an authority to conduct mining activities on the quarry site. Thus, impostors were able to usurp possession of the quarry site from RMDC.

In 1999, according to documents on file with the Department of Justice, Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz allegedly "became interested in the

quarry site of RMDC." She convinced Pascual to give her an "operating agreement" to be able to give jobs to her constituents. And then she formed Tea Rose Marble Corp.

These intrigues had a violent and macabre aftermath. The chief of security of RMDC was murdered. The suspected mastermind was in turn murdered by a "Sparrow Unit" of the New People's Army. A day after his burial, his grave was forcibly opened and his coffin stolen. His nude corpse was left leaning on his grave.

The governor, according to records in the DOJ, acts like a miniature DENR. She allegedly issues small-scale mining permits, transport permits, environment clearance certificates, certificates of non-coverage of environmental impact assessments, etc., all of which the DENR has protested since provincial governments are not authorized to issue such certificates.

Biak na Bato National Park is now in the middle of a tug of war between vested interests. Environmental NGOs are with the governor in opposing mining at Biak na Bato. But RMDC claims that, under the cloak of protecting the environment, the plan is to have its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement cancelled and then open up the site to small-scale mining operations under the governor's control.

The DENR has to act fast here. Even as the wrangling goes on, quarrying continues and Biak na Bato is getting smaller. The director of mines can legally cancel the mining permit. After all, even if the land is privately owned, the marble deposits, by law, belong to the state. That is why there is a sharing agreement between the miner and the government.

But if RMDC's license is cancelled, small-scale mining operators will likely take over, using permits issued by the provincial government. I do not think our mining laws allow this, but the Local Government Code muddles things. Congress should straighten things out or else Biak na Bato and other historic places will be gone before our grandchildren realize what is happening.

## Arresting Bolante: good governance by default

### PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

PROMER UNDERSECRETARY JOCELYN Bolante has snubbed five Senate hearings, casually flouting each Senate summons and at times flying out of the country days before the hearing. He shied away from an immigration watch-list, a Senate contempt order, a Senate report and a pluperfect complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman implicating him as the "architect" in the diversion of agriculture funds into the election campaign war chest of President Macapagal-Arroyo in May 2004.

All this, under a government that has proclaimed itself as a regime under the rule of law! All this, under a President who has called upon her soldiers to lay down their lives to uphold the Constitution and defend the rule of law!

Get this: Bolante has admitted to signing the papers releasing P728 million for fertilizers and pesticides for GMA, the Gimutuang Masaganang Andi program, and distributing them to congressmen and local politicians right in time for the presidential campaign. He has washed his hands, saying it was all "demand-driven," and that he gave only to those who asked. And yet, Rep. Teodoro Locsin of Makati, the country's financial district, says he never asked, never received, and yet was recorded to have gotten the fertilizer funding—this, for Makati's cement jungle where only the flower pots in the Ayala Center have any use for the fertilizer.

And it takes the US Immigration and Naturalization Service finally to arrest Bolante—two years after the scam was first exposed!

The Arroyo administration can hunt down coup plotters belonging to well-organized and richly funded (or so it claims) conspiracies. It can round the enemies of the state, force their leaders to hole up in the Batasan, round up their followers in some historically rife with human rights abuses. But it couldn't find Bolante.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo was hassled at the airport and almost missed his flight to an international human rights conference, all be-

cause of a hold-order issued merely by the executive department—and boy, did the Justice secretary publicly berate his immigration bureau chief for wimping out on the hold-order. Bolante was subject to a contempt order by the elected Senate, but was he ever asked at the airport why he was decamping in seeming haste?

If I was the immigration office, the first thing that would give me pause is that he is using a girl's name. You don't need a computerized watch-list to alert you to some facts, you know. Not that there is anything wrong about that. In fact, when I first read about the scam in the papers, and they all spoke of Jocelyn as a "he," I simply thought it was good old Pinoy English that could blithely utter "his husband and her wife," oblivious to the gender-bending innuendo. But shouldn't that unusual fact at least trigger something, somewhere in the back of the brain, to ask, "So aren't you the guy ...?"

But this should be no surprise. This isn't the first time this government will play possum and pass the buck to another legal system. We are a proud independent republic, except when it is politically inconvenient.

"Garc" disappeared for the good part of a year. He supposedly flew to Singapore from Manila. But it took Singaporean consular records to show that he landed in the city-state, while Manila's immigration records show he never even left.

How about the former Armed Forces comptroller? It took US customs authorities to document his son's undeclared \$100,000 at a US airport and his wife's sworn statement before them that this was merely "gratitude money

from [APP] contractors." Yet back home, when the Money Laundering Council obtained a freeze on his bank account, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was able to make massive midnight withdrawals just before the courts stepped in. In the end, he was cleared of the watered-down charge of perjury because either the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan was wanting in zeal or wit.

Look at the Marcos human rights cases. Only a Honolulu court has held the Marcoses to account for the disappearances, torture and arrests under the martial law regime. Not a single Philippine court has ever dared, and the Philip Human Rights Commission has infamously issued its good housekeeping seal to Imelda Marcos since, indeed, no derogatory record were on file against the great Imeldic herself.

So has GMA's Strong Republic become Gunny Myrdal's Soft State, where "breaking rules and flouting laws is a cultural norm"? No, the government is perfectly capable of being strong when it comes to its friends. It can get an entire government—and a dilled public—to look the other way. It can finagle reprieves from the courts at will, citing near technicalities that beat fiddle common sense. It's like that Monty Python comic skit showing security police at checkpoint, searching every crevice of a car with flashlights and sticks, while on the roof sat there a giant box labelled TNT, with a light fuse and connected to an old-fashioned alarm clock loudly ticking away.

Filipino lawyers spend four years in college, another four years in law school, and another year preparing for that booby-trapped ordeal known as the bar exams. All that, in exaltation of a rule of law that has increasingly become fiction. By today, the mighty gods of the bar must confess that they have begun to resemble what the legal philosopher Roberto Unger calls "high priests who have lost their faith but kept their jobs."

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

## OPINION

## Has RP reached the tipping point?

## COMMENTARY

Conrado Sanchez Jr.

THIS MONTH, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will deliver her State of the Nation Address. I suggest that she present the administration's government reorganization program as the defining theme of her address.

The President knew that the sin tax and expanded value-added tax bills would not pass Congress unless the sacrifice she was asking of our people was matched by streamlining the government service and trimming down the bloated government bureaucracy, with the purpose of cutting down public spending and demonstrating to the whole world that we were serious about restoring fiscal stability. She promised that following the passage of the EVAT, her administration would implement a thorough-going reorganization of government departments along with the privatization of government corporations and other public agencies. The task was assigned to then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin. And we heard little about the reorganization program since.

We are still in severe fiscal crisis. The passage of the EVAT and sin taxes allowed the Philippines to buy a little more time to prevent an Argentine-type crunch.

Argentina's economy crashed after its government failed to control spending, forcing it to default on the payment of its \$132-billion foreign debt in December 2004. It was the largest sovereign-debt default on record. By October 2002, 57.5 percent of its people were living below the poverty line and about 27.5 percent were living in extreme poverty. Overnight, wide layers of the middle class became impoverished in a way that had not been seen in any industrial country since the 1930s. Over a quarter of the working population became unemployed and those who managed to keep their jobs suffered wage cuts of 20 percent.

Argentina's government seized pension funds to pay interest on its debts. Public sector workers

suffered wage and pension cuts of 15 percent and were paid with coupons instead of money for months. The government also imposed a limit on how much people could withdraw from their bank accounts. All this brought about massive rioting.

But the biggest problem encountered by Argentina stemmed from the depreciation of the peso. With the currency trading at about three pesos to the US dollar, instead of the one-for-one exchange rate that prevailed before, many goods tied to the dollar became out of reach for many consumers. (If the same misfortune were to occur in the Philippines, the exchange rate would slump to P150 to a dollar.)

Economists said the "tipping point" was reached when the pool of tax revenues was unable to service rising foreign debt, which had grown \$132 billion by 2001. That year, Argentina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amounted to \$268.83 billion. Hence, the tipping point was reached when its foreign debt equaled nearly half the country's economic output—49.66 percent to be exact.

Records show that by the end of 2005, the Philippines' foreign debt amounted to \$66.12 billion, easily more than double the debt left by the spendthrift Marcos administration. On the other hand, our GDP added up to only \$97.65 billion in 2005. It is very disturbing to note that our foreign debt is now equivalent to 67.71 percent of our total output of goods and services!

The Argentine economy crashed when fiscal mismanagement allowed its foreign debt to grow to one-half of the country's GDP. The Philippine

government managed to get away with a foreign debt amounting to more than two-thirds of the country's annual output.

Has the Philippines reached its tipping point? Let our first-rate economic experts decide that. However, the statistics show a very dismal picture.

In a recent article, Romeo Bernardo, a former undersecretary of finance, noted that after the passage of the EVAT, the government achieved a kind of "graveyard stability." But he warned: "The biggest risk now is squandering revenue gains from the VAT to score short-term political points."

The level of our foreign debt will continue to rise, sin taxes and VAT notwithstanding. This year, total foreign borrowings is projected at \$1.4 billion, according to the Department of Budget and Management. This does not include additional domestic borrowings of P56 billion, money that could be put to more productive use by the private sector. Officially, the DBM announced that the consolidated public sector deficit for 2006 will be P128 billion.

The state of our fiscal affairs is still manageable. However, we cannot afford the near-term risk of an unsustainable foreign debt burden. The fiscal problem should be addressed promptly and in an orderly way. The first step is to load the already cash-strapped public with burdensome new taxes. To avert an Argentine-type crunch, the second painful but necessary step is to shrink the bloated government bureaucracy and privatize government corporations.

The Filipino people don't deserve the wrenching, confiscatory deflation imposed by the government of Argentina on its citizens not so long ago.

Conrado Sanchez Jr. is a former governor of the Board of Investments and worked with the United Nations for 18 years.

## Tempest at PNU

## AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

A SPATE OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS, TIMED with the opening of the school year, focused on the need for improving the quality of teacher education in the country. Experts said many public school teachers lacked training in and the most basic qualifications for the subjects they taught. Which explains, they said, the declining quality of education in the country. In some shocking instances, students even graduate from high school actually illiterate—proof of the failure of the education system, and of the inadequacy of their teachers.

For more than 100 years now, the Philippine Normal University has been the country's premier teacher-training institution. Its main campus in Manila and four provincial campuses all together prepare some 12,000 students for teaching and for assuming administrative positions in educational institutions. Though the number of PNU graduates is but a small portion of the country's teacher corps, the university is still quite influential in the field, not least because its faculty undertakes the crucial responsibility for in-service training and for setting academic standards and educational trends.

That's why it's unfortunate, to say the least, that at a time when the nation is focused on teacher education and musing the political will needed to address shortcomings within the educational system, PNU finds itself embroiled in a controversy that not only pits its faculty, administrative staff and student body against the administration, but also undermines the capacity of the institution itself to undertake its proper role in addressing the present crisis in public education.

ON THE SURFACE, the controversy at PNU seems only about its present leadership, particularly the choice of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as its new president.

Meeting with four senior faculty members, all of whom have served the university for more than a decade (decades, in fact) and who held administrative positions before they resigned to protest weeks ago, it was made clear to me that the protesting faculty, administrative staff and students have nothing personal against Barbo.

BARBO is a former three-term governor of East

## COMMENTARY

Pablo A. Tariman

both the public and business. First-rate Filipino artists in the field of music have been winning international competitions and getting standing ovations, but they seldom get to endorse beer or shopping malls.

In "Superman," there is a part where the music of Bach is played while the villain is closing in on the hero's former girlfriend and her son. And there is another part where the son plays the piano to distract Superman's nemesis, and the scene ends with the grand piano crushing the villain's assistant. The message here is that music can tame the savage beast.

Last month, music lovers in Bacolod and seminarians of the Sacred Heart Seminary were treated to romantic piano concertos by pianists Liguid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes. During the post-concert open forum, some seminarians said that the music brought them to another world.

Another one said the concert allowed him to look into himself and "rewind" his life.

The rector added that because of its ability to transform listeners, music is probably one way of making us feel God's presence.

In our present obsession with Superman and Pacquiao, it is necessary for us to be reminded about other role models in other fields, especially classical music which is suffering from neglect. The Superman or Pacquiao of classical music is, without doubt, Cecile Licad who, like the boxing sensation, plays in eight hours of practice daily to stay in good shape for her next performance.

It is quite obvious that other role models who excel in their respective fields but who don't get the attention of the media are largely ignored by

ern Samar and also served as secretary of the Senate. He is remembered for administering the oath to witnesses during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and for his testimony on the authenticity of certain documents under his custody, marked by amusing lapses in English grammar and pronunciation.

But that, I am assured, is the least of the protesters' concerns. "If he would only step down voluntarily, we would support a new process of selection, even with an entirely new set of candidates, as long as the process is transparent and follows procedures designed to ensure only the most qualified candidate is selected," one faculty member stressed.

They are likewise skeptical about the claim that Barbo's most prominent qualification as PNU president is his "high potential for raising funds from Congress." The other candidates, they point out, have strong links with national and international agencies and organizations, meaning they have much broader networks and greater fundraising potential.

BUT IT'S NOT just the presidency of PNU that's at stake in this controversy, say the protesters.

The way the members of the BOR, or their designated representatives, conducted the selection of Barbo, they said, points to inherent weaknesses in RA 8292, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization Act, which vested sole power in the boards of regents of the various state colleges and universities for the appointment of the president and other senior officials.

Conceptualized with the apparent goal of strengthening the autonomy of these institutions and to minimize politicking, the law instead, says Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casilio, has laid the ground for "political patronage winning over integrity and scholarship in the academe." To this end, Casilio and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales are planning to file resolutions calling for an inquiry into Barbo's appointment as well as the possible amendment of RA 8292.

one who has caught Licad's attention is Oliver Salonga who, again like Pacquiao, also observes a strict regimen of daily practice.

Salonga's talent was first showcased when he won twice in the National Music Competition for Young Artists. He went on to win two concertos competitions in the United States. When Gemma Cruz Araneta heard Salonga play with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, she told me, "This young talent is showing us that this country has hope."

Recently, there was an outcry in Bacolod over the young getting addicted to sex videos. One reason for this may be that the young are not exposed to other sources of gratification, like classical music which is food for the soul.

"He is almost like a machine," Lazis told his countrymen when he was asked why he lost to Pacquiao.

"She attacks the keyboard like a devil," wrote a music critic in Cebu after hearing Licad's performance. Come to think of it, first-rate musicians and boxers have one thing in common: they practice discipline in body and spirit to come up with an unforgettable performance.

When boxers triumph with broken bones and faces, they epitomize the extent to which the body can withstand shock and pain. When classical musicians work out daily on the piano and get a standing ovation, they show us that there is something beyond the physical force that pianists unleash on the piano, something that makes us reflect on the nobility of the human spirit. And when the performance ends, we are back to being human again.

Let's cheer Pacquiao and Superman, but let's not forget what a Licad and a relatively unknown Salonga can do to revive pride in our country and hope for our countrymen.

Pablo A. Tariman organizes concerts of the country's leading artists and writes on the side.

## Good food

IN A RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN TIME MAGAZINE, former US President Bill Clinton reminisces about his childhood in Arkansas and the meals served at his uncle's home that included "a ham or a roast, corn bread, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, peas, Lima beans, fruit pies and bottomless flagons of iced tea."

Good food and the good life? Not quite. Clinton says those foods contributed to his problem with obesity that led to a close brush with death in 2004, when he had to undergo a quadruple bypass operation.

Clinton has now partnered with the American Heart Association in launching an ambitious project that aims "to stop the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity" in the United States by 2010.

## Overweight, underweight

Where do we in the Philippines stand? The Food and Nutrition Research Institute's 2003 National Nutrition Survey found that among 6- to 10-year-olds, 26 percent were underweight, 36 percent were short and 1 percent were overweight. Among 11- to 19-year-olds, 16 percent were underweight and 4 percent overweight.

To tackle these problems, we hold classes for mothers in health centers that include nutrition education. And in schools, health education includes some talk about nutrition. But I wonder how far nutrition education will go amid the bombardment of advertising and other marketing gimmicks from junk food manufacturers and fast-food chains.

Even worse, the Department of Health and the Department of Education are themselves becoming unwitting partners of these business interests. I was alerted to this problem recently, when I met with a group of municipal health officers, part of a joint project between Ateneo de Manila's Leaders for Health Project and the Department of Health's Doctor to the Barrios program. These are doctors who serve some of the most impoverished and remote towns in the country.

All of them point to child undernutrition as a major problem in their towns and sadly, they also blame both the health department and education department for contributing to the problem. Their main peeve: the use of instant noodles in school feeding programs. These noodles not only have almost zero nutritional value, but also have unacceptably high levels of sodium, which could contribute to kidney problems and high blood pressure. Yet, the DOH puts its seal of approval on these products if they are "fortified" with vitamins. It's a token move: the vitamin content just doesn't offset the possible harm of these foods. Worse, public schools have been distributing these instant noodles to the children, which reinforces the misconception, which is already widespread among Filipino homes, that such noodles are "good food."

## Trojan horses

The physicians told me that the DepEd actually has an administrative order banning junk food from schools. Yet by distributing instant noodles in the schools, DepEd administrators are violating the same administrative order.

As for the other types of junk food—chips and candies and chicharron, as well as soft drinks—a quick tour of our schools, both public and private, and including my own beloved University of the Philippines, will show that the stuff continues to be sold in school canteens. Another problem would be all those fast-food joints strategically located near the schools.

My nutritionist friends will attest that some of the fast foods can be even more problematic than the usual junk foods sold in sari-sari stores. Even worse, these fast foods are expensive, draining the already meager budgets that parents have for their children's schooling.

The distribution of instant noodles in school is like having a Trojan horse that brainwashes the children into the worst misconceptions possible about nutrition.

## Walking time bombs

Let's go back and look at some initiatives in other countries to reverse the tide of school malnutrition. Last September, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation that sets limits on the fat and sugar content in foods sold in schools. To be approved for sale in schools, the food product has to have less than 4 grams of fat for every 100 calories. Moreover, no food product containing more than 400 calories can be sold. California also bans the sale of soft drinks in elementary and high schools. The fruit juices that can be sold will also have a limit on the amount of sweeteners.

In England, new regulations on school foods will also go into effect in September 2006. The ban is simple but wide in scope: schools will no longer be selling chocolates, crisps and fizzy drinks (translation for the last two terms: that's chips and soft drinks). There will also be a crackdown on "substantial burgers and bangers" (I love these English slang words: those are hamburgers and sausages or hot dogs).

The British move came after TV chef-celebrity Jamie Oliver launched a campaign against junk food in schools. Oliver isn't just working for a ban, he's urging schools themselves to prepare better meals for the kids, using fresh and nutritious ingredients.

Back to Clinton. He's fighting not just to ban junk foods but also to require higher standards for food in general. And in schools, he wants more exercise programs.

Can we afford such reforms? I think so. We need to review regulations on the production and marketing of foods, especially for children, including all those joint projects between government agencies and food companies.

The nutrition classes in health centers and schools should be intensified, but we have to teach by good example and modeling, making sure the students see teachers and administrators practice what they preach. We can't just ban bad foods. We need to offer alternatives, and that means training school canteen concessionaires and the vendors outside the schools to serve low-cost but nutritious (and clean) foods?

Clinton has called American obese children "walking time bombs" because they will later pose a tremendous strain on the American health care system. Our "walking time bombs" are probably more serious as we deal with both obese and underweight children struggling later with health problems even as they become even more nutritionally illiterate parents than the ones we have today. I'm already seeing many of my students at UP having no nutritional sense at all: they can't cook, and subsist on junk foods. Sometimes, they tell me, "Oh, I do buy food from restaurants." But check around, and you'll find that those turo-turo and restaurants also use instant noodles, instant arroz caldo, instant junk.

Oh, but I fear we might have Filipino children growing up never knowing the joys of good food—good as in nutritious, as well as good sensually, sensually, masarap, malinamnam (delicious).

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PINNOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

## OPINION



## 'Political' clergy sign of a failed Church

I WAS AN ALTAR BOY IN MY hometown in Cagayan Valley. We altar boys did odd jobs at the residence of the priests assigned to our parish. The oddest was oiling the creaking bed of the assistant parish priest who—before dawn and as the old parish priest was saying the first Mass at 5 in the morning—would order us to fetch and shield from the barking dogs his mistress, a married woman.

The old parish priest later died in an accident. His assistant, I heard, was defrocked after stirring two children by his mistress. Years later, I would meet his mistress again, by then a *mama san* in an Ermita bar.

These thoughts came back to me as I ponder on the intrusion into politics of several bishops—Deogracias Iniguez, Oscar Cruz, et al. Of course, priests who want to

lord it over politics as well—and over other things worldly, such as the one I cited earlier—have been with us the moment the friars set foot in our country. Padre Damaso and Padre Salvi seemed to have sprung out from Jose Rizal's novels and lived up to this day.

This is not to deny the rights of priests as citizens or the legitimacy of the points raised by Iniguez, Cruz, et al. Election cheating, graft, and corruption, *jueteng*, among others, are indeed moral issues and are, therefore, within the province of religion.

But if we talk about morality and the gross decline of moral values that the bishops want us to take note of, perhaps, we also need to talk about why it came to this, despite the fact that we are the bigger of the only two predominantly Christian countries in Asia. The rea-

son is, the Church has failed in its mission despite almost 500 years of missionary work in our country. The fact is we continue to be confronted by the same issues Rizal wrote about. Why, the Church up to this time even holds on to vast tracts of lands which are exempt from tax and agrarian reform.

If people continue to cheat, lie, steal, and gamble—about which the good bishops are ranting—what would that say of our priests and high priests? Iniguez, Cruz, et al., may be just as frustrated as we are. That is why they now want to engage directly in politics. Yet, why not? They just need to be honest about it. That should be a good and fresh start. We may yet have honest politicians.

—DANILO DE AUSTRIA  
CONSUMED,  
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## A bloodless way to end communist rebellion

NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT has declared all-out war against the communists (as every administration did), this bit of unsolicited advice might still make possible a bloodless campaign against the longest-running Maoist rebellion in Asia.

First, the government has to seriously implement genuine agrarian reform. This will free poor farmers, who comprise about 75 percent of the population and most of whom are found in the countryside, from the oppressive and exploitative shackles of landlords and traders. Thus, they will earn more; as it is now, a bigger part of the proceeds from the sale of their produce goes to landowners and the manipulative traders and usurers. But with genuine agrarian reform, the farmers' living conditions will improve and the "agrarian revolution" of the New People's Army will become a hollow promise.

Second, implement "nationalist

industrialization." At present, what we have in this country are extractive industries and the assembly lines owned and operated by multinational corporations. They do create jobs, but on a very limited scale, prompting many talented and skilled Filipinos to seek employment—no matter how "lowly" the job may be—abroad. Meanwhile, those who get employed here face job insecurity and various forms of abuse.

Without nationalist industrialization, we will remain a country of consumers and lowly workers, even as industrialized countries take advantage of our abundant resources, including our mineral wealth and human talents. I am not saying we do away with foreign business; we need them for, say, capitalization and technology. But without nationalist industrialization, we will always have millions of unemployed Filipinos who will be easy to recruit into the folds of rebels and criminals.

Third, eliminate corruption. We know the effects of corruption. Those in power get richer while the ordinary citizens become poorer. Public servants who are honest, including those in the Cabinet and the military, usually end up demoralized. Corruption is as serious as the first and second concerns mentioned above. If it goes unchecked, it is a sure formula for self-destruction.

Now, the question: Can the Arroyo administration accomplish these three goals in two, five or 10 years by adding P1 billion to the anti-insurgency budget and another P1 billion to the anti-corruption drive? I doubt. For GMA, pursuing these goals would be like trying to "eliminate" herself and her min-

—JENO ALLEGRE,  
Ballesteros Village,  
Balangas District,  
Pagadian City

## Confusing economic views and directions

THERE'S NO WAY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY can move forward until and unless our economists and economic planners get their act together or make sense of themselves.

Consider this: Every time the peso strengthens vis-a-vis the dollar, the economists would caution against a very strong peso which, they say, would impact adversely on the competitiveness of our export industry, one of the country's engines of economic growth.

Just recently, when the peso was about to hit the P50-\$1 rate, it was reported in the newspapers that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was forced to intervene in the exchange market to prevent the peso from gaining further strength versus the dollar.

Also recently, there were news reports that billions of pesos in potential government revenues are being squandered because of the indiscriminate granting of tax incentives or tax holidays to industries. Such incentives are turning out to be unnecessary and redundant, because the grantees, such as Smart and Globe, will invest anyway without those incen-

— And as if to add insult to injury, Lafayette Philippines Inc., a cause of environmental pollution in Sorsogon, was reported to have been given P4.5 billion in tax breaks. One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist, or have a post-graduate degree from Harvard, to figure out that it would be better to give these billions of pesos worth of redundant tax breaks to the export industry while allowing the peso to freely appreciate or strengthen to the highest level possible.

Common sense tells us that a strong peso is very good for the country for a hundred reasons, such as, a lower debt burden, lower oil prices which mean lower production costs and lower prices of goods and electricity, lower fares in public transport, etc.

Congress, especially the Senate, should investigate the indiscriminate grant of tax incentives as it is clearly disadvantageous to the government and may, in fact, be a source of graft. The environmental groups opposed to mining, together with the commission that investigated the Lafayette incident, should study whether it is appropriate to ask the courts to stop the operation of Lafayette, given the huge tax breaks extended to this firm which is clearly inimical to the interest of the public.

It is downright absurd and inconceivable to grant so much favors to a company which is out to exploit the country's resources and whose track record in caring for the environment has been proven wanting.

—ROBERT DEFENSOR,  
robert\_defensor@yahoo.com.ph

## Death penalty abolition: an error of judgment

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO BELIEVES that in signing into law the bill abolishing the death penalty, she did the Filipino people a favor, I think she is utterly mistaken. The abolition is a great disappointment to the aggrieved families of the victims of heinous crimes.

During the last presidential campaign, she promised to push through with the execution of death penalty convicts. But after the campaign, she declared a moratorium on death penalty executions. Given this background, can you blame people if they continue to distrust Ms Arroyo and don't believe in her words?

Many criminal lawyers will tell us that practically all persons accused of heinous crimes fear the prospect of being sentenced to death. For this reason, the death penalty is obviously considered by many right-thinking Filipinos as a deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes.

By way of clear demonstration, the brutal murder of Mayor Desifino Albano, of Ilagan, Isabela took place about two days after the signing of the law by Ms Arroyo. And we continue to hear from the media more and more heinous crimes being committed.

The next Congress should immediately correct this error of judgment. May I ask our future legislators to review carefully the sentiment of our people on this matter as well as the present law abolishing the death penalty.

—ARTURO M. TOPACIO,

UE Law Alumni Association  
Hall of Fame awardee, Manila and Cavite City



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# Now a typhoon, 'Florita' leaves 10 dead

By Blanche S. Rivera, Christine O. Avendano and Dona Pazzibugan

TROPICAL STORM "FLORITA" BECAME A full-fledged typhoon yesterday after leaving at least 10 people dead and another 10 injured as it headed toward Taiwan, dumping heavy rains and shutting down schools and offices.

But Florita has weakened later in the afternoon based on latest satellite images caught by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"Metro Manila will continue to experience occasional rains (today), but it will not be as frequent as in the past days," Pagasa weather chief Herman Ngohayon said.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 140 kph, Florita was located 370 km north northeast of Basco, Batanes.

Storm signal no. 3 remained in the Batanes and Calyan groups of islands in northernmost Philippines while storm signal no. 2 was still up in northern Cagayan, Apayao and Ilocos Norte.

Mt. Province, Kauanga, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Benguet and La Union and the rest of Cagayan were still under signal no. 1, experiencing winds between 30 to 60 kph.

Ngohayon said gale warnings were still up in Luzon as the weather bureau monitored big waves in the west coast, making inter-island travel hazardous.

#### Classes resume

Classes in Metro Manila and in Regions 3 (Central Luzon) and 4 (Southern Tagalog) will resume today, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But classes in Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 2 (Cagayan) and the Cordillera Autonomous Region would remain suspended, she said.

President Arroyo made the announcement following a briefing she got from weather officials on the status of typhoon Florita, whose strong rains and wind have been sweeping the country the past two days.

Pagasa weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz told the President that the weather was expected to clear up by Sunday.

#### 10 dead

Florita left in its wake 10 people dead, and 10 injured, according to an official count from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).



CHILDREN frolic in the trash on Roxas Boulevard washed ashore by big waves.

EDWIN BACASMAS

The latest fatalities were Edgar Bensit, 32 and Jonathan Enese, 23 who were struck by lightning in Remedios, Lubao, Pampanga on Wednesday.

The body of 10-year old Ariel Prensillo, who was carried away by floodwaters in Bgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City, has also been recovered.

The other fatalities were Juanita Tagaca, 61, who drowned in Sarat, Ilocos Norte, Teresita Villegas, 42; her sons Gilbert Villegas, 4, Jose Enrique Villegas, 3; and Jose Alberto Villegas, 3, from New Cabalan, Olongapo City. Perfecto Gaerlan, 54, from Baguio City, and Eduardo Tinedero, 53, from Tanay, Rizal, who both died from a landslide.

Two children were reported missing and feared dead: 4-year old Osios Balbawang Jr. who was reported missing after his family's home in La Trinidad, Benguet was destroyed by landslide; and 7-year old Gracel Benito who was reported carried by floodwaters in Baguio City.

The NDCC said landslides and floodwaters have displaced 22,762 persons. 13,830 in La

Union, 866 in Ilocos Norte, 200 in Ilocos Sur and 7,866 in Benguet.

Florita has also wrought around P28.745 million in damages to roads and bridges in Baguio City and the provinces of Benguet, Mt. Province and Ilocos Norte, according to the NDCC.

Forecasters said Florita was expected to make landfall over Taiwan this morning.

The typhoon is then forecast to move into the Taiwan Strait and make its second landfall along China's Fujian province this afternoon.

In Taiwan, domestic flights to the east of the island were grounded yesterday, officials said. Ferries between Taiwan and Green Island and Orchid Island also were halted, stranding more than 100 tourists.

Meteorologists on the island warned residents to prepare for torrential rains that could trigger flash floods and mudslides.

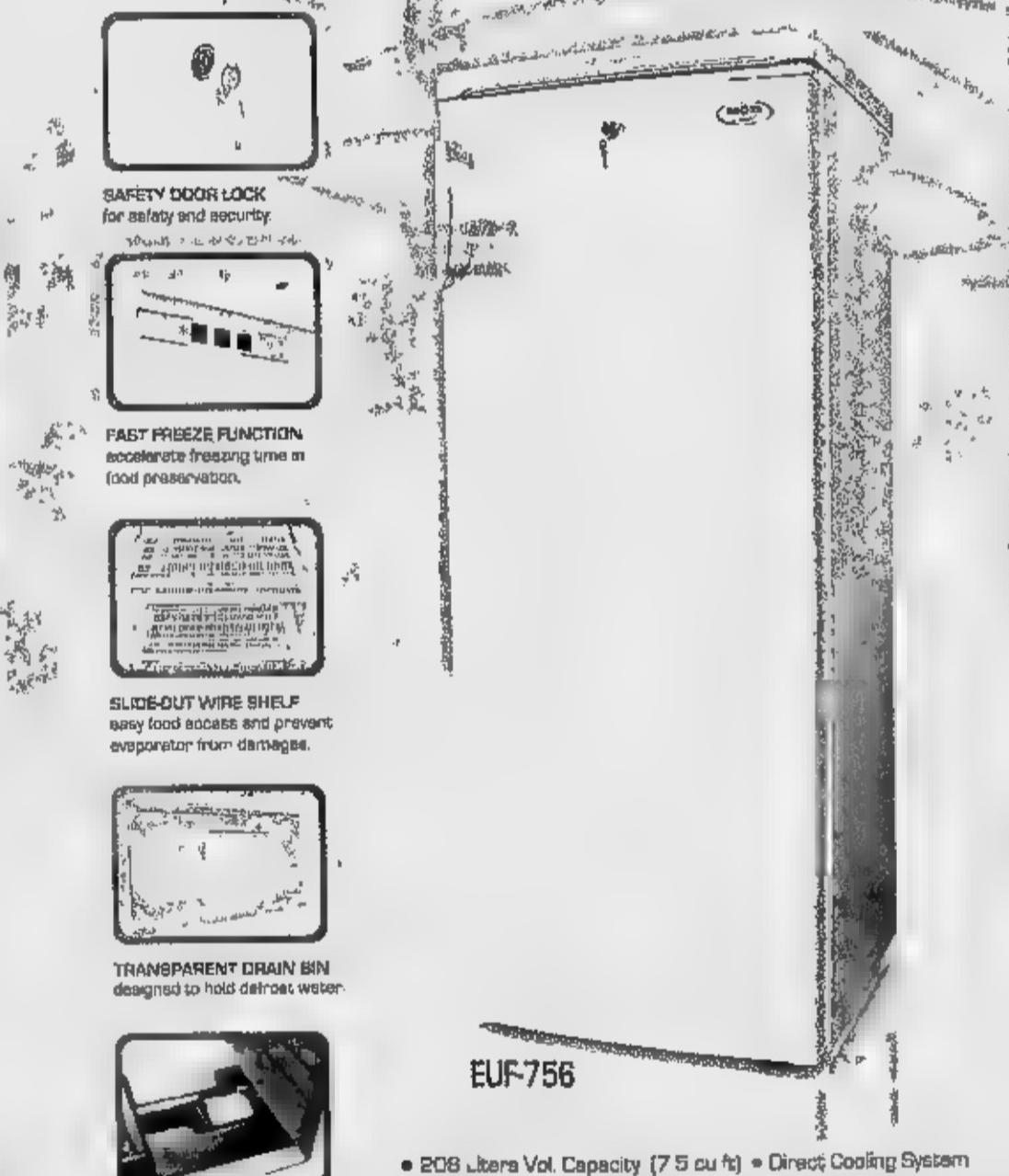
The typhoon's wide outer bands were still spreading across the entire half of the Philippine Sea and Northern Luzon, bringing sometimes strong winds reaching 60 kph, officials said.

Schools in six regions, including Baguio and in Metro Manila, were closed for a second day.

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## Palace also wants Joc-joc home, says Ermita

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

MALACAÑANG ADDED ITS VOICE YESTERDAY to calls for the immediate return of ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante to shed light on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"If we have to ferret out the truth about all these controversies, yes, he should come home and make a clean breast [of things]," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said at a briefing following a regional council meeting at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

### 'Within legal means'

But Malacañang, which is implicated in the fund mess, stressed that Bolante's homecoming should be done strictly within legal means.

"We must always follow the legal procedure, the rule of law, and not mob rule where anyone who shouts in the street for the investigation of an issue [will get what he wants]. The government will not initiate [moves for Bolante's return]. It has to be the proper agency," said Ermita.

Senators had called for Bolante's extradition upon learning of his arrest in the United States.

### No case

But citing his consultation with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Ermita said the government could not request Bolante's extradition because no case had been filed against him.

"Secretary Gonzalez told me that the Senate had already terminated its investigation and submitted a report to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has not come up with any resolution as to what case can be leveled against Mr. Bolante. Ergo, there's no reason for us or for any government agency to ask the US government to extradite [Bolante]," Ermita said.

Gonzalez told the Inquirer that the Office of the Ombudsman should speed up the investigation of the fertilizer fund scam so the matter can be used as basis to seek Bolante's extradition.

But this early, Gonzalez expressed doubt that Bolante could

be forced to return anytime soon. He said Bolante was expected to fight extradition to the extent of seeking political asylum.

"I don't think he's being persecuted here for a political offense. The case is with the Ombudsman. It's not a political offense, it involves graft and corruption. Asylum can be granted if you are being persecuted," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

### Reason for arrest

According to Ermita, the government must first establish the reason for Bolante's arrest.

"It could have been his expired visa, but we don't know that for a fact," said Ermita, who reiterated that Bolante was not arrested "because of representation from the Philippine government."

A senior Cabinet official, who asked not to be named because he was not permitted to talk on political issues, said the information relayed to the Palace was that Bolante was arrested by US immigration upon his arrival in Los Angeles from South Korea.

The source said Bolante was believed to have spent most of his time away from the Philippines in various European cities looking for business ventures.

### Tipoff

The source also said the Palace was looking into the possibility that US authorities had been tipped off on Bolante's expired visa, and that the informants had timed it to coincide with the fresh impeachment drive against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We think somebody ratted on him, or it was a case of massive stupidity on his part to enter the US with a Philippine passport and an expired visa," the source said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also clarified reports that Bolante had requested Malacañang's help in raising \$100,000 bail for his temporary release.

"He has not requested any help from us," Bunye said. With a report from Armand N. Nocum

## Mystery deepens on Bolante arrest

From page A1

filed two separate cases of plunder in connection with the questionable release of P728 million and P1.1 billion in agriculture funds in 2004.

The respondents also included President Macapagal-Arroyo and several other Cabinet officials.

Chavez charged that the funds intended for farm inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides were distributed as largesse to Ms Arroyo's allies in the run-up to the May 2004 presidential election.

Bolante was arrested by US immigration officials upon arrival in Los Angeles from Seoul on July 7 because of a cancelled B1/B2 visa. (See sidebar on this page.)

He had a scheduled hearing on Wednesday (yesterday in Manila) in Los Angeles on his visa case, the DFA had earlier said.

### Political asylum

Quoting sources in California, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Bolante was considering applying for political asylum in the United States.

"We received information about that as early as [Wednesday] night, and we got confirmation early yesterday morning that Bolante is considering it," Escudero said.

He said this indicated that Bolante might be planning to eventually "spill the beans on the administration."

According to Escudero, Bolante cannot credibly claim political persecution if he has the backing and protection of the Arroyo administration.

"You can't apply for political asylum if you're not being persecuted, so he has to speak against the government. But how can you claim that you're being persecuted if you're toeing the government line?" Escudero said.

Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez also said Bolante could not apply for asylum unless he broke his ties with the administration.

"How can someone consider to be one of the closest political allies of the powers that be in the Philippines apply for political asylum? That's only possible if he faces persecution for political reasons," Golez said, adding:

"In my opinion, he is not a victim of political persecution but a beneficiary of political protection here."

### Ombudsman's move

Senators want the Office of the Ombudsman to speed up its investigation of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam and file charges against Bolante to facilitate his extradition to Manila.

Senate President Franklin Drilon proposed that the government cancel Bolante's passport to force his return.

Chavez echoed the lawmakers' position, but said Bolante should "redeem himself" by naming all the Palace officials involved in the "magnificent scam."

### Like the Mona Lisa

For starters, Chavez said, the Ombudsman should act on the motions he had filed requiring the respondents in the plunder cases to submit their counter-affidavits.

"The Office of the Ombudsman should start moving," he said in a phone interview, recalling that the motions had not been acted upon since the term of Simeon Marcelo.

"The motions have turned into a Mona Lisa: They just lie there and die there," Chavez said, playing on the lyrics of a Johnny Mathis song.

He added: "It's about time the Ombudsman performed its mandate as protector of the people, and not as protector of the government, the administration or its cohorts."

Magsaysay himself wrote Gutierrez as well as Constance de Guzman, chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, yesterday to inquire into the status of their investigations.

With Bolante's arrest, "it is imperative that the necessary charges are immediately filed by the Office of the Ombudsman to facilitate his extradition to the country and to strengthen the Philippine government's grip on [him]," Magsaysay said in his letter to Gutierrez.

"The Filipino farmers and the people in general are all waiting that justice is served that may include the possible prosecution of officials, both former and active," he said.

In his letter to De Guzman, Magsaysay demanded to be informed on "the actions taken, the conclusions made, the names of witnesses

### All about US visa

**A BUSINESS OR B-1 VISA IS ISSUED TO A nonimmigrant visiting the United States for business-related activities such as consultation with associates, negotiation of contracts, and participation in professional conferences.**

On the other hand, a tourist or B-2 visa is issued to one who is traveling for pleasure, visiting relatives, or seeking medical treatment.

Because most business trips include tourist activities, consuls usually issue a combined B-1/B-2 visa.

### No guarantee for entry

A visa, however, does not guarantee entry into the United States. The immigration officer at the US port of entry may also deny the entry of a visa holder.

A B-1/B-2 visa holder may legally stay in the United States for a maximum of six months, depending on the decision of the immigration officer.

Aside from the basic requirements of passport, application forms, and fees, applicants for a B-1/B-2 visa are required to submit the details of their trip, evidence of their ties to their mother country, and their financial status, which may include bank statements, employment certificates, and tax returns.

According to the US Embassy website, "essentially, the visa officer needs to see that the applicant has compelling reasons to return to the Philippines."

Generally, B-1/B-2 visas issued to Filipinos are for multiple entries and are valid for five years.

called, the dossiers evaluated, the procedures followed, and all relevant information gathered."

The DFA's Asuque said that even if Bolante were being represented by his own lawyer, the consulate in Los Angeles would continue to provide assistance if requested.

"It is our obligation to [do so]," he said.

### No basis to cancel passport

Asked yesterday if the Philippine government could request the cancellation of a Filipino citizen's US visa, Asuque said, "Sometimes you can request, but US immigration would still have to determine if that person violated any US laws. It's still US immigration that will decide on that."

The Senate, which last year ordered Bolante's arrest for his repeated snub of the inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam, has also requested the DFA to cancel his passport.

But Asuque said yesterday that there was no ground for the DFA to comply with the request.

"As we said in our previous statement, the Philippine passport law provides grounds for the cancellation of one's passport," Asuque said.

Among this is if the passport holder is a fugitive from justice or has been convicted of a crime, and if the passport is fraudulently obtained or tampered with, he said.

### Impeachment case

Escudero said Bolante could help shore up the opposition's impeachment case against Ms Arroyo if he decided to tell all about the alleged use of the fertilizer funds in her 2004 election campaign.

The opposition has included the scam in the impeachment complaint it filed against the President.

Militant farmers groups yesterday refuted the complaint and called for Bolante's immediate extradition.

"Now that Joe-Joc is behind bars, we must ensure that he would not again elude justice and that he would be punished for what could be the largest scam in Philippine history," said Willy Marbella, internal deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"All efforts must be exerted to [prevent] Malacañang henchmen [from] buying his silence, skirting him off or covering up the scam," Marbella said.

Escudero said Bolante would be qualified to turn state witness if he could show that he was "not the most guilty" in the scam.

"I would encourage him to tell the truth."

But he must first state if his testimony has any worth. He can't immediately become a state witness when we don't know if he's going to tell the truth or just perpetuate lies," Escudero said.

### Extradition

Magsaysay, Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had earlier called on the government to seek Bolante's extradition so he could be brought before the Senate and face investigation before the Ombudsman.

Corruption and fraud are extraditable offenses, the senators said. Under the RP-US Extradition Treaty, either country can extradite any person against whom the requesting state has issued an arrest warrant, or who has committed an extraditable offense in the state territory.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nogales said there was "no reason" for the government to request Bolante's extradition.

"There is no pending warrant against Joe-Joc because even the Senate has finished its investigation on the fertilizer scam," Nogales said.

"Extradition is requested if one eludes arrest in the Philippines and our government requests the same. I think for now there is no reason to request extradition," he said.

Golez also said Bolante's case was "more of a deportation case than an extradition case."

### Deportation case

"Extradition is government-to-government, assuming our government is initiating extradition. [But] I doubt that the government would initiate it," Golez said, adding.

"Deportation is a unilateral action of the US government, if it decides that Bolante is an illegal entrant or an undesirable alien. If deported, he can be met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by the Senate arresting team."

## San Pedro 'a very humiliating ...

From page A1

The last visit he made was sometime last year, the source told the INQUIRER.

Bolante was arrested on July 7 upon arriving at the Los Angeles International Airport from Seoul, South Korea, after his B1/B2 visa was cancelled by the USCIS.

It is a decent facility where detainees are treated with respect," according to the source.

Still, the detainees are made to wear a scrub-like prisoner garb, he said.

"And when you talk to a detainee, there's a big, thick glass panel that separates the two of you. You're like in a cubicle and you talk to him over the phone. It's very similar to what we see in the movies," the source said.

"It is a very humiliating experience to be in that kind of a situation," he added.

The facility is heavily guarded and all visitors are "carefully screened."

"Visitors would be asked many questions before they are allowed in," the source said.

The San Pedro Service Processing Center website shows how stringent its rules for visitors are.

### Dress code for visitors

Family, friends and minors—who have to be accompanied by an adult—can only visit on weekends and holidays.

"Contact visits are not permitted," the

website said.

Visitors also have to follow a dress code. For female visitors, "skirts and dresses shall extend to mid-thigh, seated. Slits in skirts and dresses shall rise no higher than mid-thigh, seated."

For male visitors, "muscle shirts, bare midriffs shirts and sleeveless shirts are prohibited."

For both male and female visitors, shorts, shorts, jogging shorts, cut-offs, and "other obviously inappropriate short garments" are prohibited, "as well as gang "colors" and "other gang displays."

### Phone calls 24/7

The website also stated that detainees' lawyers must provide a valid picture identification and bar card.

The facility allows detainees to make calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Family and friends may leave messages for them, too.

Detainees can also send and receive mail, following the facility's rules and guidelines.

The facility also provides medical care for its detainees.

The website said that all detainees "receive an initial medical and dental screening upon detainment at the detention facility by the United States Public Health Service, Department of Immigration Health Services."

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# First-ever detox clinic set up for online game addicts

From page A1

send him somewhere and we looked around and there was nothing, so we started looking into it," said Bakker, who had struggled himself with drugs and alcohol in the past.

Smith & Jones began offering day programs to help gamers, both those playing online and those hooked on video games.

"There are groups, however, that don't easily change or those that come in for a day program and will tell you all the wonderful things you want to hear and go home and are online again," Bakker said.

Smith & Jones now offers in-patient programs for a dozen people at a time, lasting four to six weeks.

## No time to pee, sleep

Those checking in have often put their lives—school, work, friends, personal hygiene—on hold to keep playing, using anything from Red Bull to cocaine to stay alert.

Tim, 21, who has not played for a month since doing the day program, said he hardly left his room for five years, gaining weight and using drugs.

Like many others, he started out with a handheld GameBoy when he was 12 but progressed to multi-player online games that offer open-ended stories set in virtual universes that can support tens of thousands of players.

"I couldn't go to the toilet because then I would have to leave . . . I would take an empty bottle and pee in it."

Gamers offered an escape from bullies at school, Tim said. He only sought help after his mother threatened to throw him out.

Sometimes parents are partly to blame for their children's behavior, said Bakker, who was born in the United States.

## 114 million players

"Often there are parents who are happy that the kid is on game, at least it is quiet and off the streets," he said. "Or, they'll say 'why don't you go play, while mom and dad talk'."

The pull of games such as World of Warcraft, the sword and sorcery game EverQuest, racing game Gran Turismo or the 2006 Fifa World Cup game translates into a billion-dollar industry.



CAN'T STOP GAMING? Gamers in these photos taken in Utrecht, the Netherlands, may now avail of the first detox clinic for hand-held or computer video game addicts in Amsterdam. In-house treatment is also available to bring them back from the virtual world to reality.

REUTERS

Like many addicts, he said, gamers are often trying to escape personal problems or just the difficulty of growing up.

"The reality of being a 14-, 15-year-old kid is not fun, it's puberty and puberty is tough," he said. "And there are moments now where all you have to do is push a button and you're a superhero . . . There's a very enticing part about games."

Research suggests online game playing may trigger the release of the chemical dopamine in the brain. A study done in London's Hammersmith Hospital showed that increased levels of dopamine are roughly the equivalent of a dose of speed, an amphetamine that can be addictive.

"Gamers cannot simply abstain from using computers, they are now an integral part of our lives," Maressa Hecht Orzack, founder of a computer addiction service at McLean Hospital in Boston, told New Scientist magazine.

## 'The terrorist inside'

"They must learn to normalize their computer use just as those with an eating disorder need to learn to eat in order to survive," said Orzack, a

clinical psychologist.

Treatment for excessive game playing is not covered by health care insurance, so patients have to cover the cost themselves—\$640 a day.

After the treatment, patients must come to

terms with an uncomfortable truth: Their addiction will always be there.

Bakker calls it the terrorist inside.

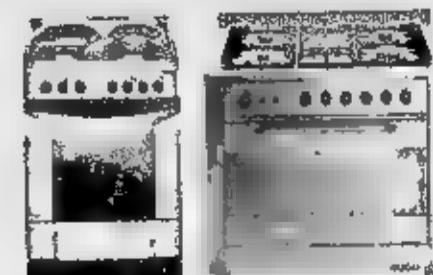
"It can't blow me up, but it tells me one drink, one game of Warcraft is OK. . . But you need to fight it every day."

Reuters



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# Death stalks Maguindanao evacuees

**SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—THREE** persons, including two children, died of various illnesses in evacuation centers here, health officials said yesterday.

Dr. Tahir Sulailk, Maguindanao health chief, said the two children, Marissa Monalasag, 5, and Badrudin Kamisa, a 10-month-old boy, both died of diarrhea while 70-year-old Muhamadi Datukai died of severe anemia.

Sulailk did not say when the deaths occurred but added that eight other evacuees were being treated at the Maguindanao Integrated Provincial Health office here due to respiratory tract infections and diarrhea.

He said that health workers were also providing medical services to other evacuees and that water sources had been chlorinated to make them safe.

At least 30,000 individuals were displaced when fighting between militiamen controlled by Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels broke out on June 28.

The hostilities that have affected this town and four other towns were prompted by the June 23 bomb attack that killed seven people and injured at least 10 others.

Authorities have claimed that the bomb was intended for Ampatuan, whose convoy was passing by at the time of the explosion.

Ampatuan was unscathed but

four people in a car trailing his vehicle were among those killed.

Ampatuan's camp had blamed MILF commanders Jamil Ombara and Sajid Paciladato, also main suspects in the 2003 explosion that killed his son, Datu Piang Mayor Saudi, Ampatuan.

Five days after the June 23 blast, Ampatuan-controlled militiamen stormed an MILF camp here triggering clashes.

The number of those killed in the skirmishes was not clear as both sides have reported conflicting figures.

But non-government aid workers said that as in any other war, the civilians were the ones to suffer most.

Sulailk said health workers were now able to work double-time following the establishment of a "demilitarized zone" and the signing of an agreement between Ampatuan and the MILF to end the hostilities.

Sulailk also reported 3,029 evacuees that underwent medical consultations, many of them provided medicines and vitamins and other food supplements.

Over 400 children were also immunized with anti-measles vaccines. Jeffrey Maitim, Charlie Sefase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI M. Bureau



THE WAR won't stop for these Marines who are unloaded from a Navy ship at the port of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

ROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

## GMA opens new school for pilots in Clark

**CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated here on Thursday the Clark Institute of Aviation (CIA), said to be the first of its kind in Asia and seen as an answer to the acute shortage of pilots in the region's airline industry.**

Ms Arroyo unveiled the company's marker, toured the training academy at the Clark Polytechnic here and conferred with CIA officials, led by its chair and chief executive officer Mark Pearson.

Pearson said his company, a member of the Alpha Aviation Group from the United Kingdom has invested \$15.6 million this year. Another \$12 million will be invested in 2007. The AAG is a global group of companies providing specialist and training solutions, operational support as well as recruitment and consultancy services to the international aviation community.

It is establishing a network of similar academies in Europe, Middle East and other parts of Southeast Asia, Pearson said.

The institute will train pilots for Airbus 320 aircraft starting September this year. A 12-month extensive course costs \$65,000 or roughly P3 million.

Pearson said the school would have two fixed based simulators for the basic and intermediate phases of the flight instruction and an A320 Level D full flight simulator. The course will have 18 pilot-students per month.

Citing market forecasts, Pearson said the Asian region needs 6,000 new pilots each year in the next 20 years.

The CIA, he added, is one of the pioneers of the new International Civil Aviation Organization Multi Crew Pilot License.

Successful cadets will graduate with a commercial pilot license that allows them to actually fly as co-pilots. The institute will be training them on either the Boeing 737 or the Airbus A320.

Pearson said the CIA chose Clark because of its strategic location, incentives, and abundance of skilled and English-speaking personnel. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

## 'Jueteng' returns unopposed in Batangas, Cavite

**LIPA CITY THE ORGANIZED** operations of the illegal numbers game have been resurrected in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite, Church and police officials told the Inquirer.

Lipa City Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said he had received confirmation that rampant jueteng operations in Batangas had been going on for three months now.

But unlike before, the underground lottery game is now being run by non-Batangas residents, he said.

Gov. Armando Sanchez has

been named repeatedly in Senate hearings last year as the supposed financier of jueteng in the province.

He denied the allegations linking him to jueteng.

"I used to think that the governor runs the jueteng operations in Batangas. But now it's different. Apparently, a new group has taken over (Sanchez's turf)," Arguelles told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

He, however, declined to identify the supposed handlers of jueteng in Batangas.

But Inquirer sources from the

police named a certain Mike Bigcocho, Pres Salud and Lito "Bumby" Guerra as among the operators of the numbers game racket in Batangas.

The source, who asked not to be identified for fear of being reprimanded by his superiors, said Guerra was close to a ranking senior official of the Cabarrizan police command assigned in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City.

"Guerra was close to a ranking senior official of the Cabarrizan police command assigned in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City.

The source said jueteng draws are being held three daily in Batangas City, Tanauan City and the towns of Laurel, Sto Tomas

San Juan, Lemery, Batangas, Calaca, Balayan and Nasugbu.

Meanwhile, a certain Ebeng and Gani Cupcupin were the alleged "national coordinators" of the illegal gambling in Cavite.

"Ebeng and Cupcupin are not from Cavite. But they have the support of the elder brother of a provincial official," the source said.

The source said the group rakes in millions of pesos of jueteng collection every month.

He said draws are also held three a day in the towns of Das-

mariñas, Liang, Imus, Gen. Trias, Rosario, Tanza, Nasugbu and Carmona.

Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla had also identified Cupcupin as the operator of jueteng in his province.

In an earlier interview, Sup't Rodel Sermonia, the intelligence chief of the Cavite police, denied that jueteng had made a comeback in the province.

Sanchez refused to say, however, what he was doing to stop jueteng in Batangas. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## Aeta teacher blazes trail for day care education

By Tonette Orejas  
PD, Central Luzon Desk

**ANGELES CITY—"MULA TAAS,** pababa (From the top, write a line downward.)"

Demonstrating that on the board and giving that instruction later at least 10 times, Annabelle Bacay—hailed as this city's first Aeta day care educator—teaches the young members of her tribe to write numbers.

Aside from the 20 Aetas aged three to six, Bacay also tutors 26 children of *unita* (lowlanders) who have settled in this village just outside the 10-foot high concrete fence of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Bacay's school is a former chapel, a 6 meter by 5 meter structure donated by the Korean Presbyterian Church in Sibit Bliss.

Heide Patio, the city's social welfare chief, said Bacay, 30, is "truly the first Aeta day care worker we have."

"She chose to be a day care worker even when she finished a two-year course," Patio said.

Interviewed on Tuesday after her three-hour morning session, Bacay said she finished a computer secretarial course at the Asian College of Science and Technology in Cabanatuan City.

The tribe evacuated to Paayaan City in Nueva Ecija during Mt. Pinatubo's June 1991 eruptions. They returned to Sapang Bato in 1998 when the land proved to be good again for tilling.

"I remained in the village. I wanted to help my fellow Aetas get an education. That's my dream," Bacay said.

That dream, she said, was inspired by what she went through and the Benedictine nuns' advocacy for education.

In her time, Aeta who went to the elementary school right in the village were "laughed at, taunted for our color, for our race, for our being *taong-bundok* (mountain dwellers)."

"*Beluga*" was the derogatory

term they called us. But I did not allow that to discourage me. I wouldn't have a future if I stopped studying," she said.

Even when the Aetas were displaced, the Benedictine sisters continued the literacy program in Barangay Dofin Josefa, their temporary refuge in Paayaan City.

On her return to Sapang Bato in 1998, she began her work although she had still to be accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development as a day care teacher.

"I gathered the children when they were free, read to them stories from old books, taught them to read, write and count on what-

ever paper and objects I could gather. An old, small blackboard came handy," she said.

Kwon Yang Ae, a Korean pastor, decided to give the shape for the use of her first 15 words.

Learning of her community work, Cot acilar Vicki Vega supported her with a P1,000 monthly allowance, some of which she spent on school supplies.

During "graduation," she invited Patio and day care leader Mandy Laesamana to prove that young Aetas were determined to learn early.

She was eventually accredited and the Biss day care center was officially acknowledged as one

of 76 early learning facilities in the city's 33 villages.

Mayor Carmelo Lazarin said the city spends P3.8 million yearly to pay for the honorarium of 76 day care teachers, and a minimum of P1 million annually on books or air-conditioning units.

Bacay gets P3,300 monthly from the city and another P500 from the barangay.

Her being an Aeta cultivates trust and confidence among her wards, she said.

"Because I'm one of them, they're not afraid to go to school, to make mistakes, to ask questions," she said.

A parent, Lily de la Cruz, said



BACAY in her classroom.

EDER PASAMONTE/CONTRIBUTOR

she is confident entrusting her son, Renren, to Bacay.

"Eka, makut yang Aeta yang katupa ni ng maestra na (I'm not afraid because her teacher is an Aeta like us)," said De la Cruz.

Zeny Sibal, another parent, said Bacay works "diboi-diboi" referring to Bacay's adult literacy classes among mothers.

Bacay said she also goes out of her way to help poorer kids get food before they come to class.

"I have to do that, else they drop out of class because of poverty," she said.

More than 200 students have gone through her class in the last six years and many of them are now in grades five or six.

She and a select batch of Aeta children won the nutrition jingle-writing contest in the city last month.

She played the guitar while her wards sang and danced the winning piece she composed.

"Aeta are fast learners. You just have to be patient," she said.

She uses three languages to bring the lessons across: Aeta *mag-anisti* (an Aeta language used in northern Pampanga and Tarlac), Kapampangan and Filipino.

To make them grounded in the indigenous culture, she has put up an exhibit at a corner of the room. On display are a miniature Aeta hut, necklaces, *pina* (bow and arrow), *bulilinguyan* (bamboo mouth harp).

Bacay wanted a set of educational videos, a CD player and TV monitor for her students to "make learning as visual as possible."

"I want to show them plants, animals, places," she said.

The chapel is still far from being an ideal learning place, and she wants a bigger room with a toilet, a washroom and bigger windows.

Parents have contributed P50 each to repair the windows.

"We're trying to improve the school little by little," Bacay said. (Bacay can be reached through 0920-3689406)

## Across the NATION

A1

**GENTLE CREATURE**

A fisherman from Barangay Puar, Dagupan City holds a hawksbill turtle to turn it over to authorities after it was caught in his fishing net. The turtle will be released to the sea after it was inspected by environment authorities.

RAY ZAHIN/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

## ROUNDUP

**2 die in grenade attack**

COTABATO CITY—Two people were killed while several others were wounded when a grenade exploded inside a public utility jeep plying the Libungan-Bani street in North Cotabato on Sunday morning. The military reported Wednesday Capt. Magid Bisan of the Army's 38th Infantry Battalion, denoted the casualties as PLU driver Antonio Farolino, 18, and Eva Bahas, 54, a resident of Alamada town, also in North Cotabato. Bisan said the PLU was traversing the highway in Alamada when it was flagged down by two armed men. The driver, he said, refused to pull over. Bisan said one of the gunmen, apparentlyirked by the driver's refusal to stop, hurled the grenade at the speeding PLU.

Charlie Sefase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

**Fire destroys cable wires**

TAGBILARAN CITY—Fire destroyed cable wires inside the Globe cell site in Barangay Poblacion San Isidro town. Insp. Samson Gabuya, San Isidro police chief, said there had been no intelligence reports of a possible rebel attack in San Isidro, 25 km north of Tagbilaran, prior to the burning. He also said rebels usually bomb cables, not set them afire. The arson was discovered about 4 a.m. by the caretaker, identified as Bartolome Aldon, 44. Gabuya said a team sent by the Globe management which visited the site on Tuesday noon estimated the burned cable wires to be worth P100,000. Recovered at the fire scene were bamboo splints and a piece of rag which prompted police to theorize that the suspect dipped part of it with kerosene before setting the wires on fire.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

**Looking for traffic aides**

OJMAGUETE CITY—Where are the traffic enforcers? That's a question that bugged Mayor Agustín Paredes as he drove along the city streets one day last week at 3 p.m. "I couldn't find a single traffic enforcer," he told the traffic advisory committee in a meeting last week. Traffic operations officer Danny Abi said the traffic personnel were at taking snacks. "We usually give them a 30-minute snack break every 3 p.m., when traffic isn't that heavy," he said. The city pays 55 traffic enforcers but only half could go on duty at any one time because the other half would take over at midday. There are also some 28 barangay traffic enforcers paid out of barangay funds who report for work only four hours each day. The city had a law that allowed traffic officers to get a share of traffic violation fines as an incentive. However, this was disallowed by the Commission on Audit. Paredes said the law could be modified to allow the city to give traffic enforcers hazard pay.



Alex Pai, PDI Visayas Bureau



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, surrounded by his lawyers and supporters, signs documents needed for the libel case he filed against two Puerto Princesa tabloids that published stories linking him to almost every major crime in the city.

**Mountain crack triggers town evacuation**

PANGIL, LAGUNA—CONTINUOUS RAINS ARE further increasing the chances of a mountain here collapsing following the discovery of a crack there.

Villagers expressed fears of a possible landslide that could bury entire communities.

Maria Patz Santos, speaking on behalf of Mayor Ninay Manzana, said that because of this danger, the municipal government was facilitating the evacuation of residents, about 64 families, who live in areas directly in the path of a landslide should the mountain collapse.

Santos said the crack, which occurred on top of the mountain in Barangay Dambo, was discovered last March and was identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a former quarrying area.

Because of the danger, the municipal government immediately ordered a total stop to quarrying activities in the area.

Romeo Panisales Jr., of the Laguna Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) said at least 64 families are to be evacuated anytime today or tomorrow.

He said PDCC personnel and Pangil MDCC operatives were now monitoring the danger areas—including towns like Mabitac, Sta. Maria and Pampanga—which are prone to deep flooding during typhoons.

Santos said Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro had promised to immediately release funds for the evacuees for their initial needs.

Each family would be given P2,500 worth of

materials for each new shelter at the relocation area in Barangay Matalatia, Mabitac town.

Santos said the Pangil MDCC personnel

were now in the thick of preparations for the transfer of the evacuees. Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

**Imported LPG tanks face ban in Davao**

DAVAO CITY—A CITY COUNCILOR IS SEEKING a ban on the importation of second-hand liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, citing consumer welfare and safety issues.

"There is a need to establish stricter guidelines in the sale, requalification, distribution and repair of second-hand LPG cylinders. The alteration of the same may result in substandard, leaking marketed LPG units that may cause fire incidents," Councilor Pilar Braga said.

Braga has urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Energy (DOE) "to flex their muscles some more."

She said that studies showed that next to faulty electrical wiring, leaking LPG tanks have become a major cause of more than 3,000 fires last year.

Braga said the studies also showed that the fires killed more than 500 people.

Braga said aside from banning the importation and sale of second hand LPG cylinders, the DTI and the DOE should also exert more effort in putting a stop to the sale of LPG cylinders with tampered seals or with no seals at all.

She said that LPG cylinders without the product standard certificate (PSC) marking are rampant sold in the market, enticing consumers because of the cheap price.

"Aside from the dangers of substandard and leaking LPG tanks, there is also a pressing reason to protect the constituents and continue to inform them of the dangers of buying substandard LPG tanks, especially those with broken or tampered seals or those that do not have the appropriate government standard seal," she said.

Braga also appealed to businessmen here not to sell substandard LPG tanks or unfairly overprice the LPG tanks they sell.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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# Nigerian posing as prince faces estafa charges

## Suspect also offered marriage, luxurious lifestyle to victims

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A SWEET-TALKING NIGERIAN, WHO HAD introduced himself as a prince and promised marriage to several Filipino women, fell in the hands of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) when he allegedly duped a fellow Nigerian of \$4,500.

Suspect Olarewaju Olaide was arrested in an entrapment operation after he demanded money from Julius Onyeungo, a naturalized American citizen born in Nigeria.

American citizen born in Nigeria  
**Olaide, 31, of Lot 1, Blk. 22, Dolmar Sub-division, Novaliches, Caloocan City, is now facing estafa charges in the Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila, according to NBI acting director Nestor Mancaruz.**

Shortly after Olaide's arrest, three middle-aged women went to the NBI and accused the suspect of having defrauded them of their hard-earned money.

"Olajide, who had introduced himself as a doctor and a prince through the Internet, had promised marriage and a luxurious lifestyle to his victims," said Ruel Lasala, NBI National Capital Region Office regional director. Olajide

Jide denied all the charges.

"The suspect will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration because his name was not in its list of registered aliens based on fingerprint database and index names on file," Mantaring said in a news conference yesterday where the suspect was presented to reporters.

An investigation conducted by Lasala showed that on June 16, Olajide called up Onyeugo in the United States and told him that the latter's nephew, Vincent Konjore, had been arrested by immigration agents in Manila for allegedly violating passport laws.

Onyeugo then wired \$4,500 to the suspect, who promised to facilitate his nephew's release. When Olajide demanded an additional \$4,200 the next day, the complainant refused to send the money and flew to the Philippines on June 26 to talk to Konyere.

"The suspect was arrested while accepting marked money from the victim at the Bayview Hotel in Pasay City last July 3," Lasala said.

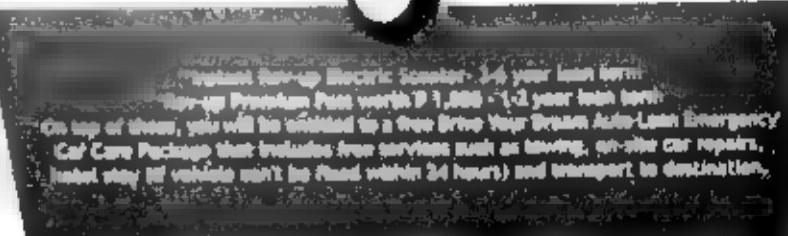
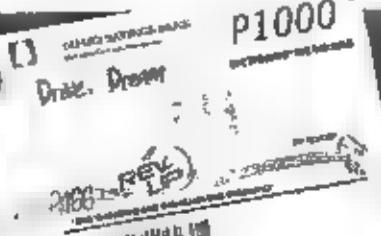
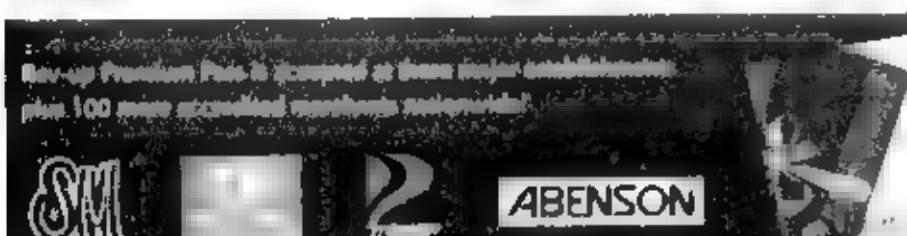
**OLAREWAJU** Olajide is shown following his arrest for allegedly extorting money from a compatriot. The suspect also reportedly duped several women of their money by claiming to be a prince. The marks on his face, he said, were proof of his royal blood.



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# Landslide kills farmer in Rizal; woman hurt

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

**HEAVY RAINS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON triggered at least three landslides in Rizal, killing a 53-year-old farmer and injuring a woman who was cooking food for her family.**

"We have advised residents to be careful," Rizal police chief, Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, told the *Inquirer* as rains continued to pour yesterday.

Panen identified the fatality as Eduardo Tendero, a farmer whose house was located at the foot of a dump in Barangay Tandang Kuyto in Tanay. Tendero was with his grandchildren in their backyard when a portion of the

dump, apparently weakened by the nonstop downpour, collapsed.

His grandchildren managed to run away but Tendero was buried under piles of garbage and mud, his wife Emerita told the police. Policemen and the Tanay Disaster Team managed to recover his body after three hours. Panen said he had already asked town officials to close the dump on Sino Dalawang Kawayan.

In Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City, Josephine Agam was injured when a house collapsed, sending debris and mud rushing into the kitchen where she was cooking. Floods also triggered a landslide in Barangay Dolores in Taytay, Panen added.

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## AND THE WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN

Residents of Perfecto Street in Tayuman, Manila view the wall of a garments factory which collapsed due to strong rains which loosened the soil around the building. Luckily, no one was injured when the wall came down. RENZAMORA

## Mother files abuse raps vs daughter's dentist

By DJ Yap

A DENTIST IN QUEZON CITY HAS been accused of hurting a 16-year-old girl by forcibly removing her braces out of anger at the victim's mother.

Charged with inflicting physical injuries in relation to child abuse was Dr. Antonio Salazar, who holds a clinic at the Robinsons Galleria mall in Quezon City.

In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Arlene Tecson-Pereira accused Salazar of hurting her daughter Ma. Trixia Darlene on July 10, following an argument about her bill.

Based on Pereira's account, Trixia was scheduled to have her dental braces removed at 5:30 p.m. that day. When they went to the clinic, Salazar allegedly asked her to pay her balance of P1,800 before performing the procedure.

But Pereira said she told the dentist that she had no money with her since he had said during a previous session that she no longer needed to pay anything.

Pereira added that she offered to pay the balance on July 13 but Salazar refused, leading to an argument between the two.

Salazar allegedly pushed Trixia to the dentist's chair and, "with his hands shalong," began taking out the braces using dental pliers, Pereira said.

In her own sworn affidavit, Trixia said she felt a pain in her mouth, adding that her gums bled because of the forceful removal of the braces.

The Inquirer tried to get Salazar's side but was told by his sister-in-law, Daisy Salazar, that he had been advised by his lawyer not to talk about the case.

She added that her brother-in-law had also filed charges against Pereira.

## METROBRIEFS

### No water in Manila

SOME areas in Manila will have no water for 20 hours starting at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, until 7:30 p.m. the following day. The water service interruption is due to the replacement of the existing 500 mm-diameter gate valve on United Nations Avenue corner A. Mabini St. Ermita, Manila. Areas that will be affected are those bounded by Luneta UN Avenue, M.H. del Pilar, A. Mabini St. Padre Faustino St. M. Adriatico St. Pedro Gil St. (West), President Quirino Avenue (West) and San Andres (West); the area bounded by UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, President Quirino Avenue and Roxas Boulevard; and the area bounded by UN Avenue, Tripa De Galina, Pedro Gil St. and Taft Avenue. The repair and maintenance work is part of Maynilad's continuing program to upgrade and improve its service. Affected customers may call the Maynilad Water Hotline 1826 or ext. Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water rationing schedule.

### Seminar on UK

THE BRITISH Council will hold its annual "Welcome to the UK" seminar on July 29 at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. The seminar provides practical tips on living and studying in the United Kingdom, information ranging from pre-departure preparations, arrival, accommodations, transportation and money matters will be discussed. The seminar registration fee is P300. For reservations, please visit the British Council website at [www.britishcouncil.org.ph](http://www.britishcouncil.org.ph) or call 9141011 to 14.

## DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Caloocan City is split geographically into northern and southern Caloocan?

THE CITY was split into two areas—first, when Quezon City was established in 1939, and again, a decade later when Quezon City took over certain parts of Caloocan.

Northern Caloocan is a hilly area sandwiched between Bulacan and Quezon City. Southern Caloocan is an urban area that includes the Monumento area. It is bounded on the south by Manila, on the north by Valenzuela and Malabon, on the east by Quezon City, and on the west by Navotas.

PD Research

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**TV GUIDE**

Channel	2:30PM	3:30PM	3:30PM	4:30PM	5:30PM	5:30PM	6:30PM	6:30PM	7:30PM	7:30PM	8:30PM	8:30PM	9:30PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:00PM
ABC 5																				
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema	A Knights Tale																		
ASIN	It's All About Love	Tech & Jerry Show	Baby Laundry	Wife Club	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	TV Patrol Weekday	7PM	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut
Cable Network	Family Aid Day	All New Popular Show	Teen & Jerry Show	Baby Laundry	Wife Club	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut
Discovery One Channel	Agents		The Show	Modern Kitchen	Wife Club	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut
Discovery Channel	We Built This City	Family Sales	It's All About Love	Baby Laundry	Wife Club	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut
ETC	Vacation Man 2		Change of Heart	Elizabetta	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
ETC 2nd Avenue	Starting Over		The Heart Patch	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
EWTN	The Good Good News	Good News	The Great War	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
Fox News			The Heart Patch	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
DMAT	My Baby Is Mine	It's All About Love	Modern Kitchen	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
Hallmark Channel	Brave Mother	Modern Kitchen	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
HBO	House	Modern Kitchen	Angela Fajula	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	20 Seconds To Fame	Carry On	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
Hero TV	Yo Go On Dual	Velvetized Japan	Mr. Africa	DUKE	Super Girls	Carry On	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
IBC 13		EZ Shop																		
Joy TV	Two Days Seven Nights	Design Revive	Jack In The Box	Street Dreams	Stevie Chic	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
Lifetime	Home & Family	Design Revive	Jack In The Box	Street Dreams	Stevie Chic	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
MTV Philippines	Rock My Life	It's All About Love	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Entertaining 2012	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
SBSC	INC Chikone	Chikone	Aut Motor Sport	The Panel	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
PBS																				
CBS	Eye Candy	Modern Kitchen	Carry On	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
ESPN	Big Game Day	Modern Kitchen	Carry On	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
Star Sports	Star Games	Modern Kitchen	Carry On	Modern Kitchen	Modern Kitchen	DUKE	Modern Kitchen	7PM	Entertainment	Big News	Real Stories	Cartoon	Cartoon	The Nut						
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# The WORLD

## Israel bombs Beirut int'l airport

BEIRUT—ISRAELI WARPLANES BOMBED BEIRUT'S INTERNATIONAL airport before dawn on Thursday and killed at least 27 Lebanese civilians in a series of raids after Israel vowed a harsh response to the killing and capture of its soldiers by Hezbollah guerrillas.

Fighter jets swooped in on the airport, firing missiles on two runways, forcing the diversion of flights to neighboring Cyprus and the closure of the newly renovated airport.

Lebanese police said 27 civilians, including 10 children, were also killed in a wave of Israeli attacks on the south Thursday after the Hezbollah action that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert branded an "act of war."

Hezbollah also claimed to have fired a volley of rockets on northern Israel early Thurs-

day. Israel said one woman was killed.

The killing of eight soldiers and the capture of another two by Hezbollah militants in fighting on the volatile Israel-Lebanon border Wednesday opened up a dangerous new front in the Middle East conflict.

Israeli warplanes also bombed the Palestinian foreign ministry in the Gaza Strip overnight in the latest offensive over the seizure of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants three weeks ago.

A total of 70 Palestinians have been killed in the military onslaught against Gaza, which the United Nations has warned is causing a humanitarian crisis in one of the most densely populated areas on earth.

World leaders have issued urgent appeals for restraint, although Israel's top ally, the United States, held Syria and Iran responsible for the fighting on the Lebanese-Israeli border, the deadliest since Israel ended its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon six years ago.

Hezbollah, or the Party of God, whose militia was instrumental in forcing Israeli troops out of Lebanon in May 2000, said it was demanding the release of Arab prisoners in return for the soldiers.

"They will only return home through indirect negotiations and an exchange of prisoners," Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said, saying the abduction was aimed at drawing international attention to the plight of "thousands of Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab detainees."

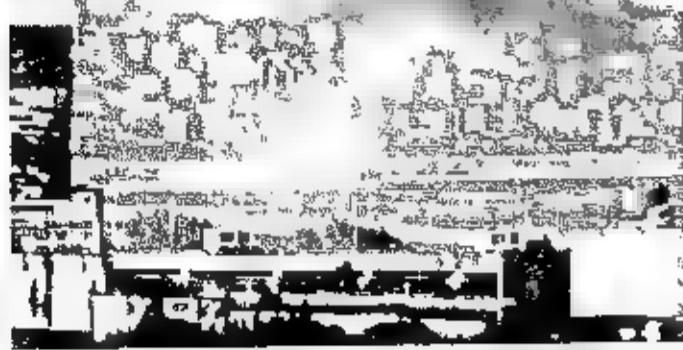
But Olmert insisted there would be no negotiations.

"This was an act of war without any provocation on the sovereign territory . . . of the state of Israel," said Olmert, facing the most serious test of his leadership since his government took office in May.

On Wednesday, Israeli fighter jets, gunboats and artillery pounded Lebanon, hitting Hezbollah targets and about 10 bridges, cutting off the highway linking Beirut to the south.

After an emergency meeting, the Israeli Cabinet gave the green light to unspecified retaliatory action against Lebanon, which has been mired in its own political crisis since the murder of ex-Premier Rafiq Hariri in 2005 and is still rebuilding after the devastating 1975-1990 civil war.

AFP



SMOKE billows from the Rafiq Hariri International Airport in Beirut following Israeli air strikes July 13. AP



**HALLS PERA SA WRAPPER PART 2**  
Kapag nabuo ang mga  
letrang H-A-L-L-S!  
May instant cash prizes din!



### PAANO SUMILI:

1. Ipinili ang mga "Halls Pera sa Wrapper Promo 2" wrappers sa bawat ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S upang meglingisa sa TATLONO masariling manalo ng Php 1,000,000.00.  
2. Maaari ring manalo ng instant cash prizes. Tinuturing lamang ang makakalihok sa loob ng mga wrappers at manalo ng instant cash prizes.

Php 18,000.00 - 10 winners  
Php 2,000.00 - 200 winners  
Php 1,000.00 - 1,000 winners  
• Ang promo ay mula June 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006.

### Wrappers sa Promo

Ang mga wrappers ay tetenggepin na valid entries kung do siya naayon sa ibig sumusunod na kundisyon. (1) Ang mga letro at salita na ipinakipaglaban sa kundisyon ay ibinabasa, at ang wrapper ay hindi nabilog o pinakikamani ng kundisyon. (2) No siyempre ay kulang na Halls promo wrapper na gawin lamang ng Cadbury Adams Thailand Ltd. (3) No siyempre ay binilang sa Philippines.

Bawal isang paralelo wrapper ay may senti at kalkulado security code upang malaman sa paglalawig kung ito ang lamang wrapper na dapat manalo. Ang Cadbury Chocolatery Philippines Branch ("Cadbury Philippines") ay may kasayang di ipaibahin sa publico ang anumang impormasyon tungkol sa mga security codes.

hanggang sa pagtakipos ng promo at mabili

Ang mga wrapped na mula sa 2005 "Halls Pera sa Wrapper" promo ay hindi makalihok sa promo na ito.

Ang mga wrapper na may markang "Halls Pera sa Wrapper 2" lamang ang maaaring isali sa branches na makakalihok sa ibaba.

Ang lahat ng wrappers na ipanglutubos ng premyo ay sususila ng mga kinatawan ng Cadbury Philippines, Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), at ng mga independent dealers.

Pagsusuri/Pagluluksa ng Premyo

Para sa P2,000.00 at P1,000 instant Cash Prizes:

- Kapag nakalihok ang wrappers na may P2,000.00 instant cash prize, pwedeng maglalawig sa Cadbury Office o di kaya'y sa mga provincial branches na makakalihok sa ibaba.

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of world titles /A27

# SPORTS

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# MVP Cup gets off the ground today



SECOND SERVING: Crowd fave Taufik Hidayat

## Hidayat leads crack Asia squad anew vs Europe

By Musong R. Castillo

**TAUFIK HIDAYAT**, THE FLAMboyant badminton ace who is a virtual national hero in Indonesia, leads Asia's charge again in the MVP Cup: Asia vs Europe 2 challenge today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The reigning world and Olympic champion, Hidayat will be spearheading a crack Asian side that will slug it out for three days against some of Europe's finest shuttlers in a Ryder Cup-style event that offers \$60,000 to the winning team.

Manny V. Pangilinan, chair of SMART Communications and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is bankrolling the challenge for the second straight year to give the Filipinos a chance to witness world-class badminton action.

Filipinos Kerrie and Kennie Asuncion, the country's best in the sport, are slated to play in the mixed doubles, which will be a crucial part of the tournament on the final day Sunday.

"The goal of the tournament is to be able to expose Filipino athletes to world-class competition," Pangilinan said. "We aspire to achieve excellence in a sport we are passionate about."

Badminton has enjoyed a tremendous boom in the country and last year's MVP Cup underscored that fact when it played to huge crowds in each of its three days at the PhilSports in Pasig.

Leading Europe will be Kenneth Jonassen, the Danish world No. 4, and Gail Emms, the Englishwoman regarded as the other half of the strongest mixed doubles team in the world.

The first team to win 10 points takes the MVP Cup and the \$60,000 (P3.15 million) champion's cash prize. The competition will also feature one match each in men's and ladies' singles today, as well as a men's doubles clash.

Matches in ladies' and men's singles, as well as a ladies' doubles contest are on tap tomorrow before the mixed doubles clashes featuring the Asuncion siblings against Denmark's Tomas Laybourn and Kamila Ryter-Juul.

Each win on the first day is worth a point, a victory tomorrow is good for 2 points and the winners in Sunday's action will earn three points.

The MVP Cup 2 is being presented by SMART and PLDT myDSL and sponsored by JVC, ABCS, Snickers, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Information Gateway, Toby's Sports, Discovery Suites, Gatorade and California Pizza Kitchen.

The others on the Asian team are China's Lin Dan and Zhang Ning, Malaysians Choong T. Pook and Lee Wan Wah, Thais Samlee Thourangkham and Sathinee Chenkrachangwong, Gopichand Pullela of India and South Korea's Bang Soo-ryun.

Robert Blair came in as a late substitute for Poland's Michale Logozec on the Euro team, which will also have Denmark's Brian Agerbak and Niels Christian Kautto, the Netherland's Mia Audina and Yao Kie, England's Donna Kellogg and Poland's Robert Mateusak.

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KRIS Aquino and MVP James Yap paint a picture of a happy couple. ERIK MAZAS

## Couple that prays together, wins together

By June Navarro

THE VOICE WAS FAMILIAR, ONE THAT YOU HEAR in a daily noontime television game show and showbiz talk on Sunday afternoons.

"Thank you for the support," said Kris Aquino, a day after her husband James Yap of Purefoods shared the season Most Valuable Player award in the Philippine Basketball Association. "It was really special for us."

The youngest daughter of former President Corazon Aquino who has survived many controversies to emerge a leading light in the entertainment industry is one of two inspirations behind Yap's unexpected feat.

"Besides my family, she's (Kris) my inspiration," said Yap, who nosed out teammate Kerby Raymundo and Red Bull's Enrico Villamuela behind the solid vote of the me-

dia to become only the second sophomore pro—after Willy Miller—to clinch the MVP plumb.

"She motivates me and gives me strength during difficult times," Yap added.

When the Gaints hotshot narrowly lost the rookie of the year award to Rich Alvarez last year, Kris stood by the former UE King Warrior.

So when redemption came Wednesday night in the annual PBA season awards, she was Yap's No. 1 cheerleader on the sidelines.

As a gift, Kris will fly James to Los Angeles and Hawaii for a two-week business and pleasure vacation. Among others, Kris and James will watch the international opening night of Aquino's movie, "Sukob" in LA and Hawaii.

"When I lost the rookie award, she (Kris) felt really sad for me," recalled Yap. "We always

prayed together so I can have a fruitful career this year."

Kris and James, who tied the knot in a low-profile civil wedding on July 10 last year, go to Mass every Tuesday in Forbes Park and every Sunday in Baguio. They attend prayer meetings in between.

Yap also acknowledged the help his uncle Emmanuel did in molding him into a hard-working player back in Escalete, Negros Occidental.

"If not for him, I will not be here," said Yap. "Tito Emmanuel guided me throughout my career."

"Winning the championship (of the ongoing Philippine Cup) will make everything complete," said Yap.

The tide series takes a one-week break with Purefoods a win away from clinching the crown after opening a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven playoffs against Red Bull.

# Knights stake clean card versus Dolphins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING CHAMPION LETRAN STAKES ITS UNBEATEN RECORD against last year's runner-up Philippine Christian University today in the first clash of NCAA basketball tournament heavyweights at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The only team with a loss at 3-0, the Knights will have their hands full against the Dolphins who are also unscathed in their last four games and are now breathing down their necks with a 4-1 record, in a tie with idle San Beda.

However, Letran coach Louie Alas admits they are not the same squad that turned back the Dolphins, 2-1, in the title series last year.

"We have lost four key players and we will be facing practically an intact PCU squad," said Alas.

"We have to be super aggressive because PCU is mentally tough. They don't panic in the fourth quarter. They are a strong team and they are aware of it."

Indeed, PCU has been winning games in the final quarter, beating San Beda, San Sebastian, Perpetual and Jose Rizal in similar come-from-

behind fashion.

But it's not something PCU coach Joel Dulan is proud of.

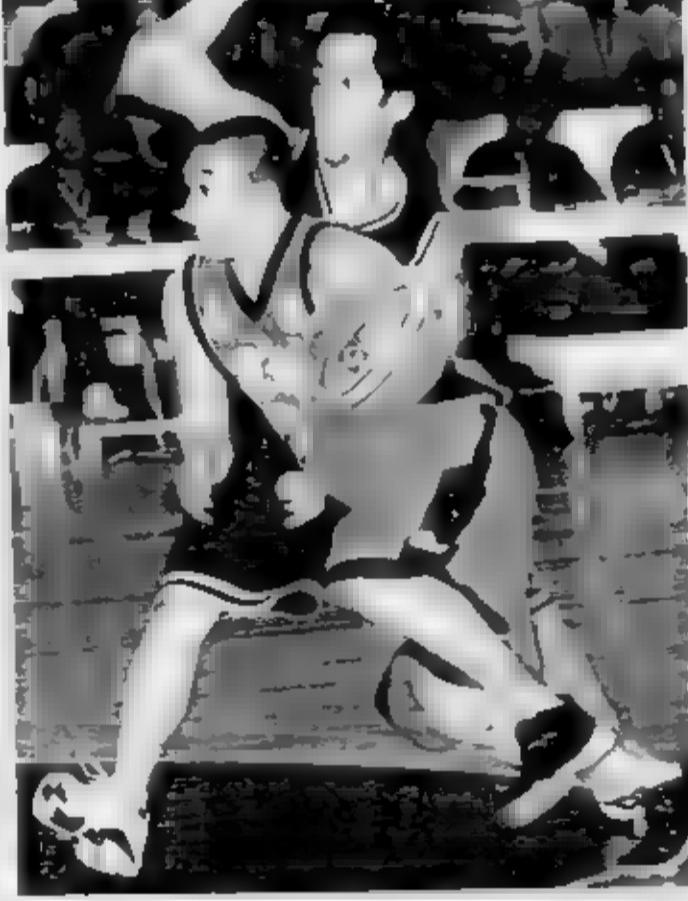
"We have yet to see our real potential because we haven't won a game by a big margin," he said. "It's as if the boys are always challenging themselves to snatch the victory away in the last quarter."

"Nonetheless, I hope we could get our fifth straight win."

Mapua (2-2) and host College of St. Benilde (1-3) collide in the other semi-final match at 2 p.m.

The defending champion San Sebastian Staglets clash with the San Beda Red Cubs earlier at 12 noon. The Squires and the Baby Dolphins collide at 6 p.m.

Man for man, the Dolphins have an edge with a lineup led by 2004 Rookie-MVP awardee Gabby Espinas, Jason Castro, Ian Gambo, June Navarro and Robby David.



LETTRAN spifire Boyet Bautista drives past Jose Rizal's Marc Terence Gacoco in a recent game won by the Knights. ERIK MAZAS

## 7th Asian Games stint for 'Tac' Padilla

VETERAN INTERNATIONALIST NATHANIEL "Tac" Padilla has made it to the Asian Games for the seventh time since 1978.

The 41-year-old Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil, equaled the Asian Games qualifying score of 564 points in the rapid fire pistol event recently to gain a slot on the Philippine team to the 2006 Doha Games this December.

"I'm happy to be back on (the national) team," said Padilla. "At least I managed to shoot a fairly good score despite lack of practice."

Padilla, son of former Olympian Mariano "Jom" Ong, first made it to the Bangkok Asiad in 1978. He represented the country again in the Asiad in New Delhi (1982), Seoul (1986), Beijing (1990),

Bangkok (1996) and Busan (2002).

Shooting association president Arturo R. Macapagal has written the 2006 Asian Games Task Force, informing it of Padilla's qualifying feat.

Macapagal also recommended the inclusion of Veneranda Garcia to the ladies' team trap, where she will join Annmaria Gana and Gay Josefina Corral, and Paul Brian Rosario, who broke the individual skeet critique of 136 with 118 at the PSC/PNSA range in Muntinlupa City. Others who have made the RP squad are Jethro Diomisio, Eric Ang and Jaime Recio in men's team trap; Carolito Gonzales in free pistol and Susan Aguado in air pistol and sport pistol.



PADILLA. Rapid fire pistol qualifier

## Missing Coke Go-for-Goal

### CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Inigo

UP TO NOW, I AM MISSING THE ANNUAL Coke Go-for-Goal tournament which was shelved a few years back despite the event's good start and the organizers' high hopes.

In my view, this nationwide football program for players 16 years and younger should not have been abandoned because of its contribution to the development of soccer in the country, a fact which has been cited several times by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Launched in 1984 by the Coca-Cola Export Corp., Coke Go-for-Goal should be revived not only to promote "the greatest game on earth" but also to encourage more Filipinos to actively participate in a sport where—at the risk of being repetitive—height is not an advantage.

The program does not promise instant fame and fortune, but in the words of lawyer Rene Adad, the moving spirit behind the project and former Philippine branch manager of the Coca-Cola Export Corp., "Coke Go-for-Goal offers the lifetime reward of discipline, sportsmanship and honesty to the young players, most of whom come from poor families and impoverished public schools."

It is a living symbol of a genuine grassroots sports development program that bridges the gap between rich and poor, between a wide variety of ethnic groups and among people from dramatically diverse backgrounds.

According to Adad, a former president of the Philippine Football Federation, Coke Go-for-Goal got off the launching pad in 1976 under the aegis of Fifa, the international football federation, after then Fifa president Dr. Joao Havel-

Million Dollar, From This Moment, Sound of Silence, Mr. Victory and Twelve or Never.

Thus far, the only two-leg winners of the annual Triple Crown Series for three-year-olds are Native Girl (1978), Paris Match (1982), Vixen (1984), French Affair (1986), Reckless Lover (1990), Family Affair (1992), Mushi Mushi (1994) and Fight with Honor (1995).

In the 29-year history of the TC Series, only eight horses have scored a sweep, namely, Fair and Square (1981), Skywalker (1983), Time Master (1987), Magic Showtime (1988), Sun Dancer (1989), Strong Material (1996), Real Top (1999) and Silver Story (2001).

ALL SET FOR DANCE SPORT TOMORROW. A banner field of dance athletes will be competing in the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines' 10th anniversary Midyear Ranking and Competitions tomorrow at the PhilSports Arena. DSC president Becky Garcia said five international adjudicators from Europe and Asia will act as judges in the tournament sponsored by Petron Corp., BMW Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Water Zone and Savannah Moon.

"I'm grateful to all the sponsors who keep the tournament going," said Garcia, who will be assisted by members of the DSC board led by lawyer Noel Lazaro.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, PhilSports Complex, Pasig City. For inquiries, call Anna Rye at 635-0116.

### SPORTSWATCH

#### All set for 1st Highlands Ladies golf

WEATHER-PERMITTING, IT'S GOING TO BE A GRAND DAY AT THE PICNICQUE Tagaytay Midlands tomorrow when the First Highlands Ladies Cup tees off with a banner cast vying for prizes worth millions. Tee-off is shotgun style at 8:30 a.m. At stake as a hole-in-one prize on No. 3 is a hot-air package from El Nido Resort in Palawan and Seafit. Two Northwest Airlines tickets to the US are up for grabs on No. 5, a Baja Mexico cruise from Baron Travel's Royal Caribbean is at stake on No. 12 and thecoveted Club Car is the prize for an ace on No. 17. Ceremonial drives for the event hosted by the Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter will be made by Willie Ocio of Bella Corp., Edgar Chua of Philippines Shell Petroleum Corp. and Merle Prieto, chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Four fun holes await the golfers. A Barbie doll will be given to anyone whose ball lands within two-pin length on the third hole. A Motorola gift goes to whoever gets within two-pin length on the fifth, an HSBC golf bag is at stake for the longest drive on the sixth and two sleeves of Titleist balls from Dynamic Sports for those who get within two-pin length on the 17th. There are 70 sponsors supporting the fund-raising event. Philippine Amusement & Games Corp. (Pagcor) and Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp. joined the elite list of Platinum Sponsors led by Motorola and followed by Mikotola Canopy, Philippines Shell Petroleum Corp., Highlands Prime, HSBC, San Miguel Corporation, Baron Travel, Northwest Airlines, Club Car, Philippine Air Lines, and El Nido Resort with SeaAir. Aside from two PAL roundtrip tickets to Vietnam, upscale local resorts are up for grabs, such as, Boracay Sunside Resort & Spa with Asian Spirit, Club Marinduque Resort & Spa, El Nido Resort, and Camp John Hay.

#### 19 entries lead Makati derby

THE THIRD BATCH OF 60 PARTICIPANTS SEE ACTION IN THE P3 MILLION "Salpukan Sa Taguig" 5-cock derby which resumes tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Entries must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475. After two days of action, 19 participants advanced to the championship round on July 22 with two wins each. Unheralded bets shone in the second round Wednesday night, led by the entries of Raymond Velasco (Amis Master), Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker), Ching Morales (El Matador), Louie Cua (Leonard), Osang dela Cruz (Gold Quest Champ), Butchyo Olano (Ika Mae Pasay), B. Ang (BU Wang) and Boy Marso (Sabong World).

#### Newcomers top Roligon's 'Hatawan'

NEWCOMERS CESAR MARQUEZ OF QUEZON CITY AND RICKY YULO OF Davao emerged as co-champions in the "Hatawan" 6-cock derby Tuesday night at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Marquez's KKK entry posted the fastest winning time of 12 seconds (1st, edging Yulo's Showtime (14.1 sec.) to win a brand-new Honda Civic in the 256-entry event sponsored by Lakque Drug Inc. and Thunderbolt Entertainer. Up next at Roligon is the "Motorcycle Festival" 4-cock derby on Aug. 1, 3 and 5, with P1 million in cash prizes at stake. Entry fee is P6,000. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1838 or 852-9812.

#### Metro cockers clash in Pasay special

PROMINENT COCKERS FROM METRO MANILA COLIDE TODAY IN A special 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit with more than P200,000 in cash prizes at stake. The 82-fight program sponsored by Seguapaon Complex 3000 and hosted by Dick Ame and Wang and Rudy Torres features top entries of 2006 PCCA Cockler of the Year Pol Estrelado, Boy de Roca, Patrick Antonio, George Antonio, Pepito Ngo, Joel Fernando, Ramon Mancones, Dodie Villanueva, Lito Roque, Cito Mansala, Ray Cabral, Amor Salvadora and Boy Cercera. Entry fee is P8,800. Meanwhile, Pasay cockpit's 20th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby comes ned on July 24, 26 and 28 with P2 million at stake. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 818-6750.

## SPORTS

# 3 RP jungolfers on threshold of world titles

**THREE-COLOR HAUL**

James Lozuriaga shows the gold, silver and bronze medals he won in the tough 2006 World Taekwondo Festival and Korea Classic Open held in Jeonju City, South Korea, recently. The high school freshman at De La Salle-Zobel keyed the Philippines' third-place overall finish behind South Korea and Australia in the 45-nation competition. The RP team was led by national coach Ricardo Santiago.

## Siso bags 2 crowns in Milo junior tennis

OZAMIZ—SALLY MAE SISO EDGED LOCAL BET Yzel Ilisan, 6-3, 6-4, in the girls' 12-under final then whipped elder sister Sallydine 6-1, 6-3 in the girls' 14-under to emerge a double champion in the 2006 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop over the weekend at the City Engineer's Tennis Club. Sally Mae shared the limelight with fellow Cebuanos Vince Tabatubo who nipped Frenchches Cabrera, 6-2, 7-5, for the 10-under title. Rogelio Estano who routed Francis Derrick Alcantara, 6-3, 6-2 for the 12-under crown, Raphie Santos who bested Kent Tacan, 6-3, 6-4 in the 18-under final; Honey Gilles who whipped Lovelle Saquino, 6-2, 6-2 for the girl's 16-under diadem, and Saquino who won over Nikko de Dios, 6-4, 7-5, 10-3, for the girls' 18-under title. Club president Romeo Cabrera awarded the trophies to the winners in the tournament supported by Prince equipment and Adidas.

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—A REVIVAL OF THE PHILIPPINES' glory days in the Callaway Junior World Championships loomed on the horizon as Dottie Ardina and Mia Legaspi seized the upperhand and Cyra Rodriguez put herself in the mix after the penultimate round on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

After an otherwise quiet first day, the Philippine delegation made a lot of noise through the 12-year-old Ardina, who remained hot with her borrowed clubs and Legaspi, a 7-year-old who took up the game only two years ago and is now 18 holes away from becoming a world champion.

Legaspi submitted the first sub-par round—a 57—on three birdies and two bogeys in the girls' Class E play at the Pine course of the Sycuan Golf Club for a 36-hole total of 123, four shots clear of Fil-Hawaiian Ailisen Corpuz and Wang Ziyi of China.



RODRIGUEZ: One shot behind

Ardina put herself on track for a second world title when the former 8-under winner

carded a second consecutive 3-under 70 at the Cottonwood course. She will tee off in the final round of Class C (11-12) Thursday with a two-shot lead over Fil-Japanese Mariko Tumangan, who had a 69.

It was a big day for the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines delegation which is bidding to score its first double victory here since 1985, when Canto Viluroman and Ramon Brobo won Class A and Class B, respectively.

Both jungolf greats, who are now professionals, also pulled off the same feat in 1983.

Rodriguez boosted the RP campaign all the more when she cracked par for the second straight day, this time with a 70 at the Oak course of Sycuan, to emerge a strong contender in the girls' Class B (13-14) play.

At 141, Rodriguez was within



TWO IN FRONT: Dottie Ardina with dad Ed

ROGER MANGALO

a shot of Elisa Aoki of Japan (71-140) with two Thais just two and three shots behind the leader.

Miguel Tabuena and JR Gonzales earned the day for the boys' bays of the contingent backed by Philippine Airlines, Pagcor, PCSO and ICTSI.

Tabuena struggled on the front nine en route to a 74-146 that left him tied for seventh in boys' Class C, seven shots adrift of American Grayson Murray.

Gonzales, winner of the 7-8 years title two years ago, had a 62-125 and was six shots behind in a tie for fifth.

Wolien Superal, last year's 11-

12 years champion, and Marcel Puyat both missed the cut in Class B at Riverwalk. Most of the RP bets in Class A were also in danger of missing the final round action at Torrey Pines with Tonton Asistio (78-152) the best performer at 37th place.

Debbie de Villa, the Philippine Ladies Open champ, revved up her bid in girls' Class A play with a 72-72 at Torrey Pines South that lifted her to a share of 17th place. She was 11 strokes of Mika Miyazato of Japan.

"I hope to win again but we'll never know until it's over," said Ardina.

## Catalan quartet captures team pursuit bronze

BANGKOK—THE PHILIPPINES ADDED another bronze medal to its medal collection in the Asia Cup Round 2 here Wednesday by finishing third in the men's team pursuit.

As if to underscore their readiness for the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December, the quartet of Allie Catalán,

Arnold Marcelo, Carlo Jasui and Paterno Curtan Jr beat a vaunted Japanese team in the bronze medal race.

That bronze was the third for the Filipinos after Marites Bibit wound up

third in both the women's individual pursuit and the 500-meter time trial over the weekend in Round 1 in Ipoh, Malaysia.

In claiming the bronze, the Filipino quartet timed four minutes and 43.046 seconds, improving on the 4.45 they clocked in their silver medal-winning effort in the SEA Games last December.

China won gold in 4.30.325, while

Malaysia took the silver in 4.32.057.

The Japanese clocked 4.55.638.



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# SPORTS

## James, Wade sign up for 4; Anthony for 5

**NEW YORK—LEBRON** James and Dwyane Wade relieved Cleveland and Miami fans by signing with their NBA teams on Wednesday but the superstars committed to only four more years. Carmelo Anthony went for more guaranteed money.

New deals for the class of 2003 players were announced on the first day allowed after the NBA's moratorium on deals ended. But they aren't the big-money packages that were originally expected.

Rather than choose the five-year extensions they were eligible for that would kick in starting with the 2007-08 season, they went for three years with an option for a fourth—and the chance to become free agents sooner and potentially make even more money.

"It was a great business decision by me," Wade said. "As a young player, going for the three-year with a fourth year is the better option."

Anthony and Toronto's Chris Bosh, also top-five picks from the '03 draft, could have gone the same route. But Anthony went for a five-year deal with the Denver Nuggets worth an estimated \$80 million.

"I thought this was the best move for



MULTI-MILLIONAIRES: (From left) Anthony, Wade and James

Staples Center hallway to the Lakers. But the biggest news, as usual, was made by James and Wade, the MVP of the NBA finals.

The five-year deals would have been worth around \$80 million (euro63 million), but James and Wade settled for some \$20 million (euro15.7 million) less. However, when they become unrestricted free agents in the summer of 2010 as seven-year veterans, they can earn maximum contracts worth 30 percent of the salary cap under rules of the collective bargaining agreement. Players with fewer than seven years experience can earn only 25 percent of the cap. AP

## Hectic weekend awaits Sy, Peña

A HECTIC WEEKEND AWAITED FILIPINO racing stars Tyson Sy and Dado Peña who are bidding to pull away from the field in the Asian Formula Three Series that visits the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong, China, for the second time this year.

Four races make up this week's latest challenge, including Round 6 that was called off last month after heavy rains flooded certain portions of the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai track.

Round 6 will be held tomorrow morning, with the next round set in the after-

noon after the battle for pole position. The next two rounds will be held on Sunday.

The starting grid for Round 6 will be based on the results of Round 5, with Irishman Al Jackson of Aran Racing occupying the front row along with Briton Dillon Bartistini of JA Motorsport, followed by Speedtech Asia's Sy and Team Goddard's Peña.

Sy and Bartistini gained a reprieve the other day when the Automobile Association of the Philippines turned down a recommendation made by the Hong Kong

Automobile Association that the points they garnered in the crash-marred Round 5 be deleted from the standings.

The AAP also reduced, from \$5,000 to \$2,000, the fines slapped on the two for disregarding a double yellow flag at the height of Round 5.

Had the points been deleted, Peña would have been the biggest beneficiary since he would have moved to solo second place overall. Bartistini finished second in that race for 15 points while Sy earned 12 for third.

## Zidane apologizes, insists Materazzi provoked him

PARIS—ZINEDINE ZIDANE SAID ON Wednesday he attacked defender Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final to defend the honor of his mother and sister.

The French captain said he could not let Materazzi's words on the pitch go unanswered, though he admitted head-butting the Italian was not a good thing to do.

In an interview with the French television channel Canal Plus, a chastened-looking Zidane also apologized to children and fans but said that he did not regret the attack which led to his sending off.

"He (Materazzi) pulled on my shirt several times and I told him that we could swap shirts at the end of the game if he wanted to," Zidane said in the live interview.

"He then pronounced very rough words, words that hurt me deeply, words about my mother and my sister. At first, I tried not to listen to him but kept repeating them," Zidane said.

"I knew it was my last game and I knew there were only 10 minutes to play but things happened very swiftly," he said. "I am a man before anything else."

Materazzi has denied mentioning Zidane's mother during the game in Berlin last Sunday.

Zidane, widely considered the greatest player



of his generation, rammed his head into Materazzi's chest with the score at 1-1 and minutes to play in the second period of extra time.

The 34-year-old, who said the final would be his last professional game, was shown a red card and left the pitch in tears watched by his stunned team mates.

France, deprived of their leader and chief penalty-taker lost the game, 5-3, on penalties.

Zidane denied Materazzi called him an Islamic "terrorist," as was reported by a Paris-based anti-racism group.

Born in Marseille in 1972, Zidane is of Algerian origin. His parents are from the village of Aguemone in the Kabylie region.

FIFA decided on Tuesday to open a disciplinary investigation into the incident and Sepp Blatter, head of soccer's ruling body, suggested Zidane could be stripped of the tournament's best player award.

Zidane said he was ready to face any disciplinary hearing, stressing that he was confident about the outcome. "If someone can read (Materazzi's) lips, they will show that I'm telling the truth. The one who is really guilty must be punished," Zidane said.

Reuters

## Climbers ready to charge

PAU, FRANCE—FREED FROM THE GRIP OF seven-times champion Lance Armstrong, the specialist climbers should have a field day on Thursday's 11th stage of the Tour de France.

The 206.5-km course will feature some of the most famous Pyrenean passes, Tournale, Aspin, Peyresourde, Portillon and the final ascent to the finish at the summit of Pla de Beret, in Spain.

The hors-category Tournale is part of the Tour legend since riders climbed its 18.3-km slopes, with a maximum gradient of 10 percent, for the first time in 1910.

The last climb would not be the hardest challenge of the day but for the massive presence of thousands of Basque supporters clad in the orange of the Euskaltel team.

Their flags, drums and slogans could inspire Spaniards Carlos Sastre, Oscar Pereiro or Iban



LANCE Armstrong accepts the ESPY award for best male athlete from singer Mariah Carey at the 2006 ESPY Awards at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

Mayo to redeem themselves after under par performances in Wednesday's mountain stage. Russian Denis Menchov, Georg Totschnig of Austria, Jose Rujano of Venezuela, Italy's Damiano Cunego and Dane Michael Rasmussen will also be vying for a stage win.

Reuters

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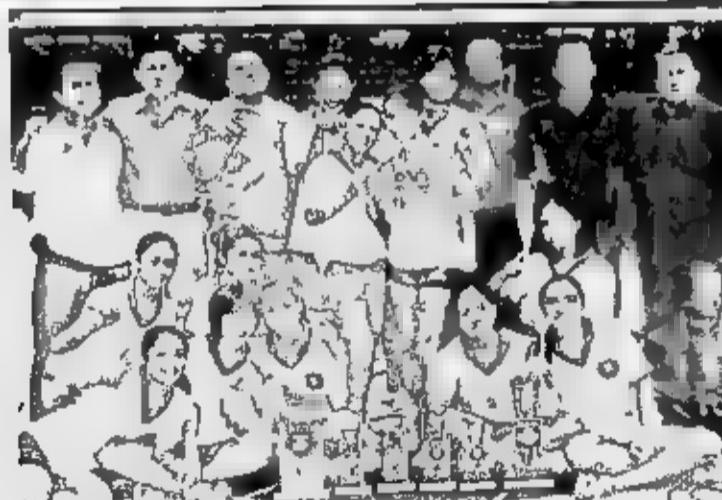
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79. SUPERMAN RETURNS

80. I WANNA BE HAPPY

81. PIRATES OF THE CAR





# STARS

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text: Inquirer.net name/age/city/message to 2207 (Global) and 283 (Smart) or email us at stars@inquirer.net

## Nic wears mom Lea's gown

... to the christening attended by just a few guests

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by Ryan Lim

Additional photos courtesy of Lea Salonga

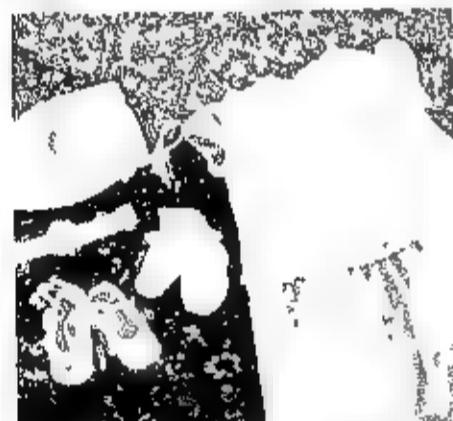
INTERNATIONAL THEATER STAR LEA SALONGA'S firstborn, Nicole Beverly Chien, was baptized on Sunday at the St. James the Great Parish in Alabang, with only a handful of friends and family as witnesses.

It was "beautiful," Lea told INQUIRER Entertainment in an e-mail on Tuesday.

"It had rained really hard the day before," the happy mom wrote. "But the [actual christening] day was perfect, weather-wise."

The godparents were Lea's brother Gerard, best buddy Steffi Incantes, Sony-BMG marketing and sales director Narciso Chan, theater colleague Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and family friend Gina de Venecia (wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia). Gina, who was in Hong Kong at the time of the christening, was represented by sister Chona Perez-Ampil.

Lea had very carefully picked them: "They are all close friends ... people whom we know will help us raise Nicole to be the best person she can be. I wanted godparents who ... would really be



THE BAPTISMAL tressus, courtesy of 'Abu' Ligaya.

there for Nicole as she grows, and grows up in faith. I also wanted people who represented Rob and me. These are different people from different worlds, coming together for this little girl."

Ninong Steffi had crafted the invites, gift tags, party décor and balloon centerpieces, said Lea.

Dad Rob Chien played shutterbug to the hilt, happily clicking away all day.

How did baby Nic take the hubub?

"Very well, I'm proud to say," Lea said. "She slept throughout the ceremony and flinched just a little when holy water was poured on her head. She also stayed asleep during the party at home, even as she was greeted by the guests. Even my mother couldn't believe how well-behaved she was."

Abu Ligaya revealed that Nic's baptismal gown was first worn by Lea to her own christening.

Ligaya recounted: "I kept the dress, cap and shoes for 35 years. It was made by one of Lea's

NIC/A3-3



### LOVI POE

My mom's sister Rossan entrusted her Persian cat Ochie to me, just to see if I'd make a good pet owner. Ochie had three kittens—Sid, Scott and Smoothie. They're very cute. My tita said I could have one of them for my own. Which meant I had passed the test! I always bring them to the vet, I panic when they're sick. And I feed them a lot. They're kinda fat now. I treat them like babies. I'm thinking of adopting Sid, the most matamboing (affectionate).

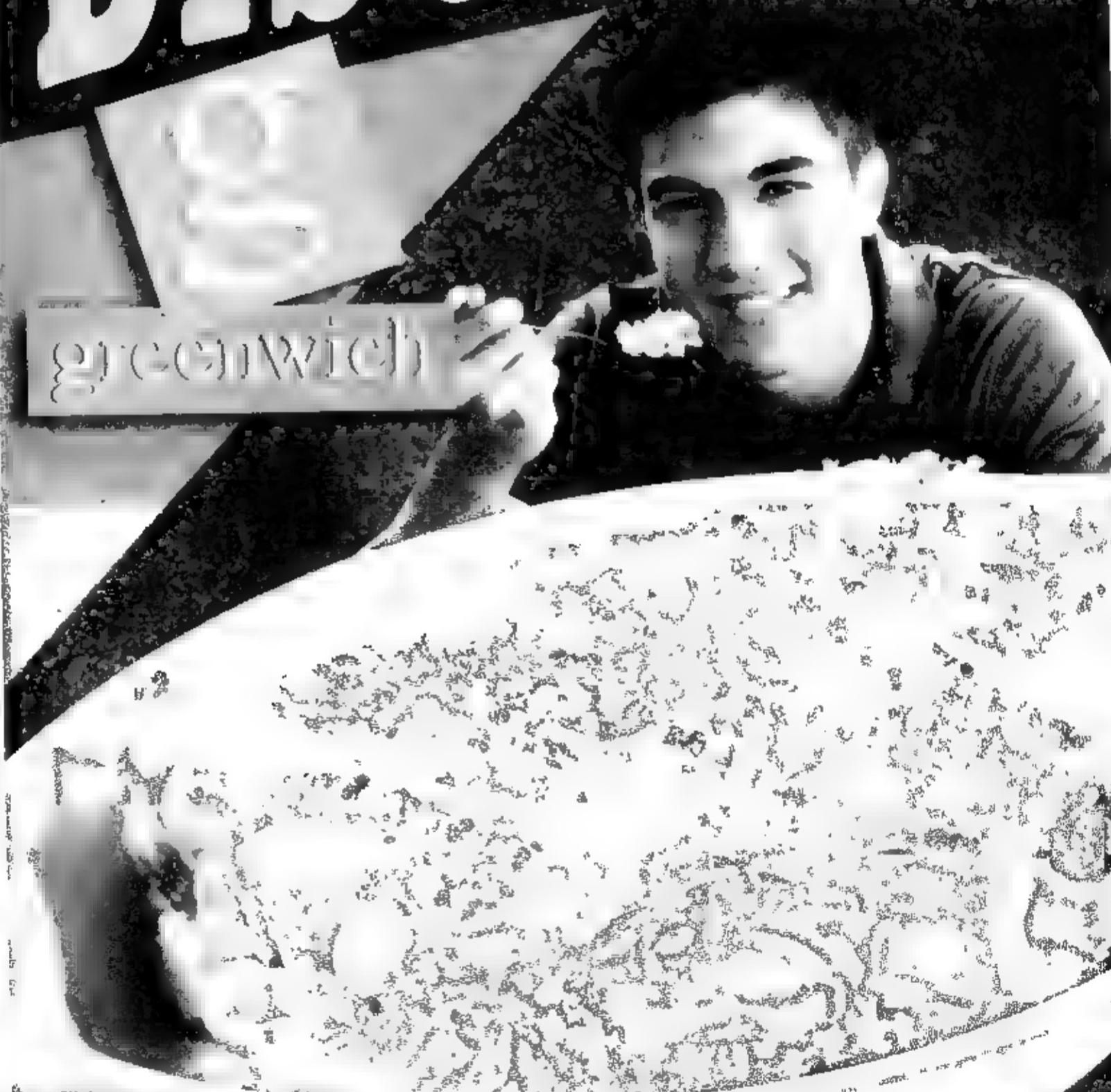
Bayani San Diego Jr.

PARTY!  
PARTY!



DAD Rob plays shutterbug to the hilt. His subjects: Ninong Steffi, Nic, Ninong Gerald and Lee.

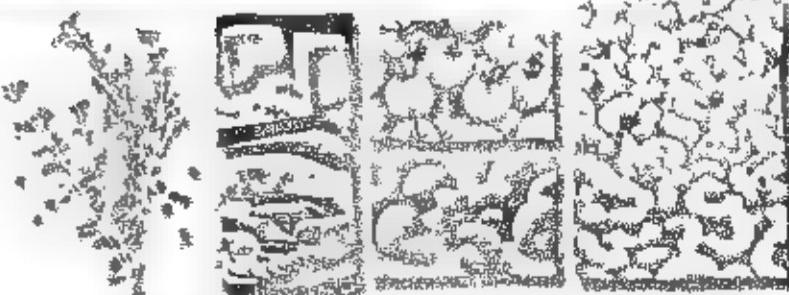
# DISCOVER



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A3-1

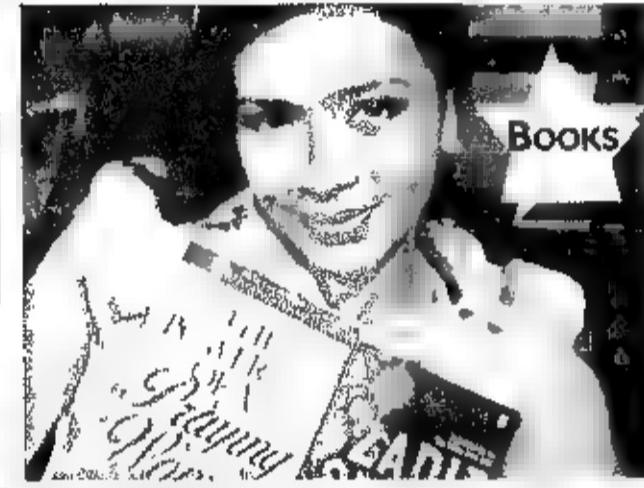
## FAVORITE NOOKS

JIM GUAD PUNZALAN

RUFFA MAE QUINTO

There's one place in the house: the bathroom. When I come home from work, I have to take a shower. And again when I get home from work—straight to the shower. But it's not just a place to freshen up. I also come here when I'm sad and when I want to think, read, or just be alone.

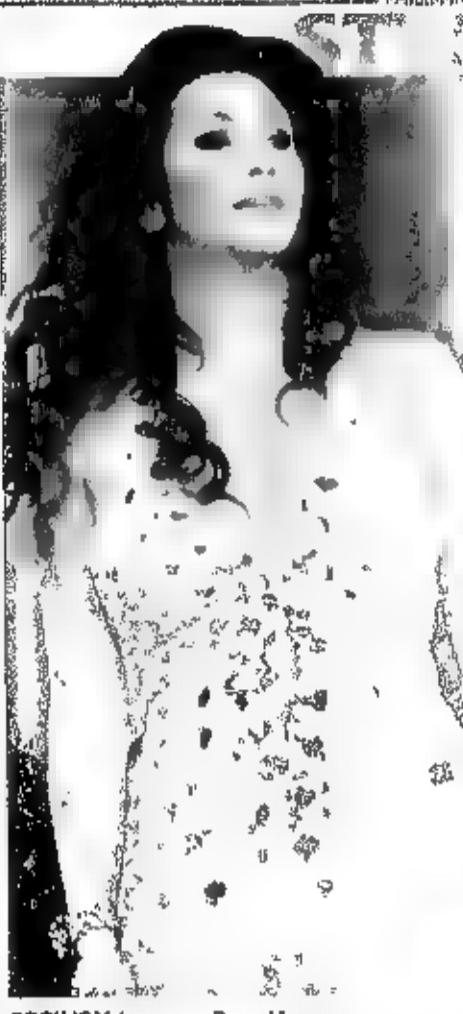
Marinel R. Cruz



ZSAZSA PADILLA

I'm reading two books on the set of (the ABS-CBN soap opera) "Bituing Walang Ningning." One is "The Power of a Praying Woman" by Stormie Omartian and the other is "On Beauty" by Zadie Smith. Omartian's book is a gift from Kris Aquino. It's her way of "paying forward" because she received the same gift from Lucy Torres. I bring it to the set so I can breeze through it from one chapter to another. I find it comforting. It's about how powerful prayer can be and how you should pray not only for others but also for yourself. I read about Smith's book in Oprah Winfrey's O magazine, which had given it a rave review. It's very witty—something I need on the set because most of my scenes are heavy drama."

Bayani San Diego Jr



REGINE Velasquez - Pepsi Herrera

PHOTO: RODEO RC



MEL Tiangco - Eric Pineda

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G4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	4 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
GB1	4 INITIAL D	5 UNITED 3D	6 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 LOVREWRECKED
GB3	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	4 PIRATES OF THE CARR. BEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
ATC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 LOVREWRECKED	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
ACC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 I WANNA BE HAPPY	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 LOVREWRECKED
M2	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 I WANNA BE HAPPY	3 INITIAL D	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

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# Who dressed up Kapuso stars for 'Fantastic 56'?

**F**OR THOSE who caught GMA 7's "Fantastic 56" special presented at the World Trade Center on Sunday and wondered who dressed up the network's fabulous gals and guys, here's the list—and another peek at the standouts.

## Rock & jeans

Why do we like rock music?

Because it's as much about raw emotion as it is about the music, about vulnerability as much as strength.

Because it's about drama, quirks and form-fitting gear.

When Levi's Philippines launched a campaign for its 501 series via a concert tour in Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao, it attracted some of the best rock bands in the country because of its theme, "Stay True."

For Pupil front man Ely Buendia, the theme meant "Don't compromise your integrity."

For Calalaiya vocalist Kean, "I don't care that you don't care."

Niles of Angulo, "Fix your life and own it."

Urbandub guitarist Chuck, "Follow your heart."

But they said it best in song. The other groups that turned up—in their 50s,



of course—for the concert series were: Sugarfree, Imago, 6 Cyclemind, Manaya, Spongecom, Up Dharama Down, Tabularasa, Mackuna, Go Larry Go, Faspitch, Powerspoonz, Smooth Friction, Sheila and the Insects, Jr Kiat, Messed Up, 2nd Squad and Rain Band.



FROM LEFT: Ely Buendia, Alia of Imago and Urbandub for the Levi's 501 concert tour series

## Nic wears mom Lea's gown

'Abu' Ligaya says she kept the dress, cap and shoes for 35 years

**N**inadig—Queenie, sister of (INQUIRER society columnist) Maurice Arcache.

The dress is made of organza, with yellow scallop embroidery.

"When Lea was baptized, a psychic friend predicted that she would become Miss Philippines in 1989," Ligaya added. "Instead, she became 'Miss Saigon.'"

There was no fortune-teller on Nic's big day but, judging from her godparents' smiles, she has a bright future ahead of her—indeed, one filled with "love and light" as her mom earlier described her.

"I'd like her to pursue her own dreams," Lea said. "As parents, Rob and I [will] raise her to be God-fearing, to be a good person with a good set of morals and values. Beyond that, it's all up to her."



GODPARENTS and mom fuss over sleeping star of the day.

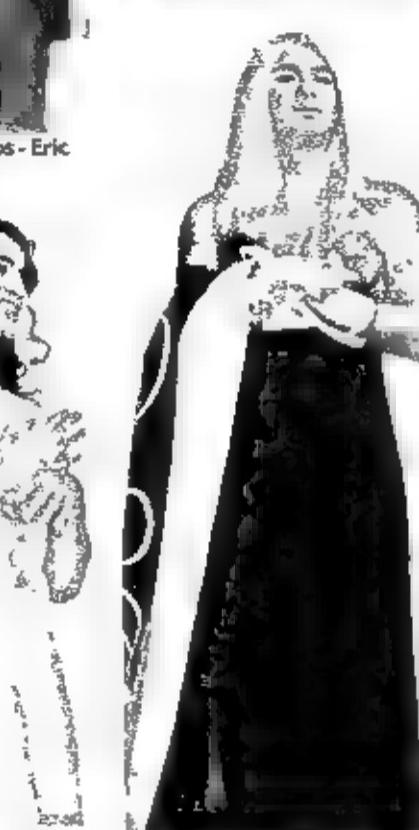
From page A3-1

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006

A3



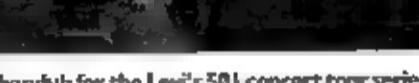
JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



JOEY De Leon - Eric Pineda



KEEMPEE De Leon - Eric Pineda



ANTONIO Aquitania - Eric Pineda



PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda



WENDELL Ramos - Eric Pineda



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## IN THIS ISSUE

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- RP exports weighed  
down by rising  
rates abroad /B2

# BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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## Skeptical gov't to study P14-B GSIS claims

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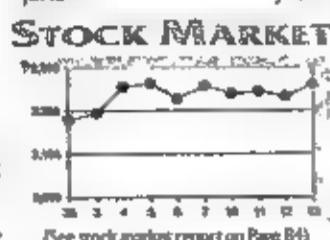
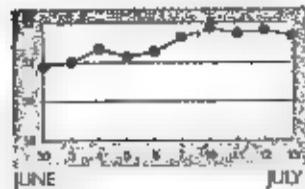
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As of 5 p.m., July 3, 2006

**GOLD:**  
\$642.20-642.70  
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**Shares close 1.34% higher**

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.34 PERCENT higher on bargain-hunting ahead of the release of what are expected to be solid corporate quarterly results, dealers said.

SHARES/B2

**CURRENCIES**

### To settle part, not all, of state's arrears

By Doris C. Dumao

AFTER OVER A DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW LOOKING at options to deal with its unpaid premiums to the Government Service and Insurance System estimated to reach P14 billion.

According to a ranking official, the government still has no wish to fully settle its arrears to the GSIS for it remains skeptical over the accuracy of the state-owned pension fund's claims.

As a result, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee during a recent meeting decided to hire a financial expert to conduct an actuarial study to determine the

extent of the government's arrears to the GSIS, the government source said.

In 2001, the Department of Budget and Management and Bureau of Treasury signed a memorandum of agreement with the GSIS to settle unpaid premiums from 1992 to 1997.

Under the MOA, the three agencies considered the principal of P7.14 billion, and speci-

SKEPTICAL/B2



CRUZ

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## BUSINESS

# RP exports weighed down by rising rates abroad

Global demand expected to decline in second half

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By Michelle V. Remo

THE DOUBLE-DIGIT RISE OF THE PAST MONTHS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO BUOY UP THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO SETTLE WITH A GROWTH RATE OF ONLY BETWEEN 6 TO 8 PERCENT FOR THE FULL YEAR DUE TO RISING INTEREST RATES ABROAD.

"There may be lack of (consumer) confidence as we move toward the second semester due to rising interest rates and the need for realignment of currencies," according to economist Bernardo Villegas during the University of Asia & the Pacific's mid-year economic briefing yesterday.

Rising interest rates, which make borrowings costlier, normally result in cuts in investment spending by firms and therefore restrain income growth in the short run.

The move of the US Federal Reserve to implement successive hikes in interest rates has forced central banks in some emerging economies to increase their own interest rates as well, in an effort to prevent their currencies from sharply depreciating.

A rise in US interest rate makes bonds issued by emerging economies less attractive. Without matching the hike, developing economies are faced with threats of capital flight, or shift of bond investments to the United States which, in turn, could result in weakening of currencies.

Although rising interest rates have so far not yet made an impact on exports, Villegas said the effects could be seen in the second half.

For the first six months of the year, Philippine merchandise exports already reached \$18.687 billion, 16-percent higher than that of the same period last year.

The robust growth was attributed largely to the increasing demand for electronics, such as cellular phones, iPods and laptop computers. Electronics is the Philippines' major export product, accounting for about 60 percent of export earnings in June.

The strong export performance in the first half led government economic managers to believe that the country could exceed the official 8-percent export growth target for 2006 and even attain a growth rate of anywhere between 10 and 12 percent.

The National Economic and Development Authority earlier said the government was so far not inclined to change the official 8-percent export growth target. But this was only because changing macroeconomic targets is not a good habit for governments, the Neda said.

But Villegas said the government's projection of an export growth of between 10 to 12 percent might be too optimistic. He said the projection did not yet take into account the adverse effects of rising interest rates abroad.

## Net portfolio inflows hit \$106.3 million in June

By Doris C. Dumao

THE PHILIPPINES CHALKED UP \$106.3 MILLION IN NET PORTFOLIO INFLOWS IN JUNE, SWAMPING THE \$31.6 MILLION REGISTERED A YEAR AGO, DESPITE UNCERTAINTIES OVER RISING US INTEREST RATES DURING THE PERIOD.

"THIS DEVELOPMENT INDICATED CONTINUED POSITIVE INVESTOR SENTIMENT OWING TO FAVORABLE ECONOMIC REPORTS SUCH AS THE 5.5 PERCENT GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THE LOWER THAN EXPECTED INFLATION RATE OF 6.9 PERCENT IN MAY, AND THE CONSECUTIVE BUDGET SURPLUSES IN APRIL AND MAY," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. SAID ON THURSDAY.

"THE POSITIVE SENTIMENT OVERRIDED CONCERN OVER FURTHER INTEREST RATE HIKES BY THE US FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD TO STEM INFLATION, WHICH MAY CAUSE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SLOW AND MAKE ASSETS IN EMERGING MARKETS SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES LESS ATTRACTIVE."

TO INVESTORS."

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS REFER TO INFLOWS TO LOCAL EQUITIES AND DEBT PAPER, TAGGED AS "HOT MONEY" DUE TO THEIR VOLATILE NATURE.

DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER, FOREIGN INFLOWS OF HOT MONEY HAD REACHED \$773.6 MILLION, 70 PERCENT OF WHICH WENT TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PROPERTY BANKING, AS WELL AS FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO.

THE OTHER INVESTMENTS WERE IN PESO-DENOMINATED SECURITIES, MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS AND PESO BANK DEPOSITS.

THE INVESTMENTS DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER, ALTHOUGH SMALLER THAN THE \$1.9 BILLION INFLOWS IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WERE FUNDED WITH FOREIGN EXCHANGE REMITTED THROUGH BANKS AND CONVERTED INTO PESOS.

ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE HOT MONEY INFLOWS IN THE FIRST SEMESTER CAME FROM SINGAPORE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.



### FOR SERVICES RENDERED

Dr. James G. Dy of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association Inc., owner and operator of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, received the "Pagkilala sa Paglilingkod" award from President Macapagal-Arroyo for rendering invaluable service to the people through its free health services and other charity projects. Looking on are Secretary Alberto Romulo and Dr. Lucio Tan.

### Shares close ...

From page B1

2,230.34. Volume was 443.16 million shares worth P1.21 billion (\$23.1 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 14.93 points to 1,403.91.

Gainers beat losers 46 to 28, with 49 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 52.208 to the dollar.

### Skeptical gov't to study P14-B ...

From page B1

FIRED THAT THE INTEREST OF P6.28 BILLION CLAIMED BY THE GSIS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

BUT EVEN AT THAT TIME, THE DBM WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE PENSION FUND'S ESTIMATES, WHICH WAS SAID TO REACH P13.42 BILLION IN TOTAL RECEIVABLES. THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THEN DECIDED TO ONLY PAY THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT.

IN ANY CASE, THE MOA OF 2001 DID NOT PUSH THROUGH AS THE GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL DEFICIT BEGAN TO BALLOON. TO DATE, THE GSIS' CLAIMS HAVE INCREASED TO P14 BILLION.

NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FISCAL CONSOLIDATION, IT IS WILLING TO REVIEW THE GSIS ARREARAGE, ONCE IT CONFIRMS ITS EXACT LIABILITIES.

DURING THE DBCC MEETING, NATIONAL TREASURER OMAR CRUZ SAID THE GSIS MUST RECALCULATE THE PREMIUMS FOR LIFE AND RETIREMENT OF PERMANENT EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE SOURCE SAID.

"CRUZ EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE AGREEMENT IN 2001 DID NOT INCLUDE A RECALCULATION OF THE PREMIUMS," THE DBCC SOURCE SAID.

THE BT CHIEF ARGUED THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO DO THE ACTUARIAL COMPUTATION AND CHECK THE EXTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBTS TO THE GSIS, GIVEN THAT THE PENSION FUND REQUESTED LUMP-SUM GRATUITY PAYMENTS.

DURING THE SAME MEETING, BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS DEPUTY GOVERNOR DIWA GUINIGUNDO ALSO SAID THAT "THE NUMBERS SHOULD HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN REVIEWED FIRST AND ASCERTAINED BY AN ACTUARIAL STUDY BEFORE THE 2001 MOA WAS SIGNED IN THE FIRST PLACE," THE SOURCE SAID.

THE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE DBM IS SET TO WRITE TO THE GSIS TO GET ITS COOPERATION.

SLUGGISH REFORMS IN THE PHILIPPINE PENSION FUND SYSTEM HAVE BEEN CAUSING WIDESPREAD CONCERN, GIVEN THE VULNERABILITIES OF BOTH THE GSIS AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

IN AN EARLIER COUNTRY REPORT, THE WORLD BANK WARNED ABOUT THE GSIS' PORTFOLIO BEING INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATED IN LENDING TO ITS MEMBERS. THE INSTITUTION SAID THAT THIS PRACTICE MADE THE FUND "SUSCEPTIBLE TO ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD AFFECT ITS RETURNS AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY."

THE WB ALSO NOTED THE ALARM BELLS SOUNDED BY THE GSIS ITSELF: IT SAID THAT IF THE SOCIAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS OWED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WERE NOT COLLECTED SOON, THE PENSION FUND COULD FIND ITS FINANCIAL POSITION UNRELIABLE.

WITH THE GSIS NOW CLAIMING THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OWES IT P14 BILLION IN RECEIVABLES, THE PENSION FUND HAS SET ITS SIGHTS ON A 10,000-HECTARE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IN CLARK, PAMPANGA, AS PAYMENT FOR THE DEBT.

### PRULINK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 1, 2006	July 4, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1,411,39	1,412,27
Managed Fund - Peso		
Growth Fund - Peso	1,214,45	1,223,11
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1,230,04	1,225,11

Note: Investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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Manager's Check	2,500 booklets	P 245,000.00	P 500.00
Modified Disbursement Scheme (MDS)	18,000 booklets	P1,125,000.00	
PVAO Pension Check (Continuous Form)	450,000 pieces	P 517,500.00	P 500.00
DECS Checks (Continuous Form)	1,608,322 pieces	P 1,929,988.40	P 500.00

\*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Mode of Delivery/Payment: Staggered Delivery/Progressive Billing

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	July 25, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of August 8, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	August 8, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:30 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the Security Checks Printing business for at least three (3) years. Security Check Printer should present sample check items with MICR encoding duly tested and certified to have passed the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) MICR reader sorter. Only Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at [www.devbankphil.com.ph](http://www.devbankphil.com.ph) and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on July 25, 2006.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

DBP-Jul 7 2006

### BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to re-bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract: Repair & Improvement of Capitol Building Capital Compound, Cebu City  
Brief Description: Repair and improvement works for the Capitol Main Building

Approved Budget for the Contract: P 5,651,074.45  
Contract Duration: 100 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

## The shrinking Sorianos

LIKE ANY CEO/PRESIDENT, ANDRES SORIANO III was extolling the growth strategy of his family's listed A. Soriano Corp. during the April 26 shareholders' meeting at the Peninsula.

The 54-year-old, twice-divorced Spanish-American cited Anscor's investments, in particular ICTSI and SPI Technologies, as a "balanced mix of viable investment choices that attempt to ensure steady and increasing shareholder returns and future potential."

A week later, Soriano surprised shareholders when Anscor announced it had sold off its entire ICTSI shareholdings, followed by this week's sale—but still undisclosed by Anscor—of its remaining 8-percent stake in SPI.

More than half of the P5.9-billion proceeds from the ICTSI sale had already been allocated as cash dividend to the Sorianos and the rest of the shareholders, including taipan John Gokongwei.

The balance, including Anscor's 8 percent share in the \$135.34-million SPI sale, is presumably reserved for future investments.

With the twin divestments, Anscor is left with only one major operating venture, the 59-percent-owned Phelps Dodge, the country's largest copper wire manufacturer, which contributed a little over P65 million out of Anscor's 2005 net income of P340 million.

ICTSI, on the other hand, contributed P66 million to the Anscor income in the same year.

Still, even prior to the latest divestments, Anscor in 2005 posted only a sub-market 8 percent return on its various investments, even though 16 percent of them are placed in marketable equity securities and foreign-denominated bonds.

Contrast present-day Anscor with the 1951 Anscor, when it was being run by its swashbuckling Palangat founder, MacArthur aide Col. Andres Soriano of the Marikina Guerrillas fame.

Soriano, then at 53, a year younger than his namesake grandson, was described by Time magazine as "King of the Islands," who parlayed the family's San Miguel Brewery's fortunes into mines, dairies, factories, a newspaper and radio station, Philippine Airlines, Philip Morris distributorship, the largest Coca-Cola franchise, five insurance agency distributorship, a Kansas City brewery (the maker of Lone Star and Colt .45, now a Lucio Tan franchise), gold mines in the then British East Africa and a development company in Spain.

Time reported: "His holdings stretch so far and wide that a top executive says, 'I haven't been able to memorize even the names of all the companies yet!'"

According to people who claim to be his friends, ASIII has lost the drive ever since he was ousted from San Miguel during the early Estrada months.

His 2004 divorce from his Filipina wife, Victoria Hagedorn, has also left him with no immediate family moorings in the country, especially since his children, two girls and one boy, are based in New York.

Even Soriano business ally Enrique Razon Jr. could not offer any road map for Anscor, saying he had tendered his resignation from the Anscor board after the Anscor divestment from Razon's ICTSI.

This early, the fourth generation Andres Soriano, or Shuffy, as the lone boy of ASIII is nicknamed, appears not inclined to ever work for the family business.

A certified emergency medical technician, the 20-year-old Shuffy is off to Ireland this weekend to join the Cork Week regatta, bringing his father's 82-foot Swan yacht and a crew of 26.

The father, in the meantime, has left again for Spain, for yet another affair of the heart.

### Heard through the grapevine

IT LOOKS like the Carlos J. Valdes inheritance fight is in for a tough, hopefully not vicious,

## Viability of hybrid rice plan doubted

AN INTERNATIONAL NON GOVERNMENT organization has expressed concern over the possible waste of billions of pesos earmarked for the country's hybrid rice program following reports that the variety has not increased farm yields.

In a paper, the Southeast Asian Regional Institute for Community Empowerment (Seaface) said some P1.1 billion was released by the government in 2004 to fund the rice and corn program of the Department of Agriculture. Of the amount, P551 million went to the hybrid rice commercialization program (HRCP).

Some P1.6 billion was earmarked for this year, while P2.5 billion is eyed for 2007.

The HRCP was patterned after the successful hybrid rice program in China. Seaface, however, said the hybrid rice varieties used under the local program "had not shown significant and consistent yield advantage over inbred rice varieties."

It said that in a case study on the use of the variety in four provinces in the country, the seed performed better than traditional varieties in only one province. It performed poorer than the traditional varieties in Isabela and Iloilo, which are major rice producing areas, it said.

### COCKTAILS



Victor C. Agustin

legal battle.

Jose Pidal lawyer Antonio Zulueta has been retained by the eighth (not youngest) child in his court case against the eldest brother.

After the Baguio case, the six-hectare Bagac (not Balanga), Bataan campus of De La Salle, which was "donated" by the sibling father despite being part of the late mother's estate, is next to be questioned.

(Email: cocktails\_pdi@pldtDSL.net or cocktails\_pdi@yahoo.com)

### INSULAR LIFE



### Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (In Pph)	
July 10, 2006	July 3, 2006	
Fixed Income Fund	1.149390	1.149669
Balanced Fund	1.147894	1.146217
Equity Fund	1.147829	1.141549

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Los Baños City

**Artemio C. Carandang**  
Los Baños City

**Manuelito B. Cura**  
Tuguegarao, Metro Manila

**Atty. Andales S. Mercado**  
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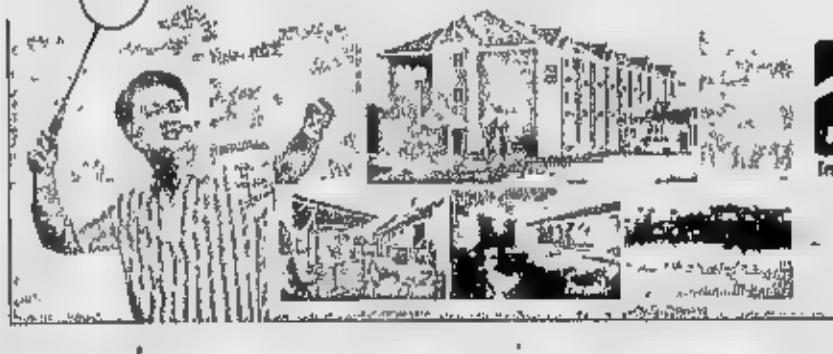
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# Citibank investing P1B to expand local savings bank

To spend more to corner big chunk of mass market

By Doris C. Dumico

## AMERICAN BANKING GIANT

Citibank N.A. has invested P1 billion in its local operations to beef up its 36-branch subsidiary, Citibank Savings.

The bank said it was keen on spending more for this new banking platform to make significant inroads into the mass market in the country.

"That investment includes capital for the premises and technology. It also covers recruitment and training, and building of a 100-people sales force. The reality is we really want to grow this business so we want to keep investing," Mark Jones, country business manager for Citibank global consumer group and chair of Citibank Savings, told reporters in a press briefing yesterday.

"We're going to spend a lot of money in this business in the next three to five years so I won't be surprised to see that amount (P1 billion) double," he added.

Citibank has just entered the thrift banking business through the acquisition of Insular Savings Bank at an undisclosed price in March last year. Banking sources earlier estimated the buyout deal at P1 billion.

Citibank also invested in the migration of its technology to Citibank platform to align it with global Citigroup standards, upgrade automated teller machines, strengthen its retail branch staffing and give intensive training to its people.

Citibank Savings president Jeffrey Chua said that with the banks' 36 branches, it could now tap a bigger market, particularly small and medium enterprises.

Recently, Citibank Savings launched Power Savings, an innovative savings account that offered as much as 5 percent interest rate without any maintaining balance.

It also gives a high daily automated teller machine withdrawal limit and free ATM transactions.

"In just the first six months of the year, we have seen a 55-percent increase in our deposit base and we hope to keep this momentum," Chua said.

As the bank is not keen on offering trust and other fiduciary accounts, Citibank will rely more on deposit generation as its funding source.

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The officials said Citibank Savings was also keen on building its lending and advisory side of the business, which would become the cash cow over the long run while keeping deposit products more affordable.

While Citibank Savings waived the minimum maintenance fees, Jones said the Citibank franchise would naturally attract the top five million to seven million of the 15 million bank account holders in the country.

The vision is to be the bank of choice among professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried individuals earning as low as P10,000 to P20,000 a month.

"We are making this investment because our branches will be used for advice, mainly mortgage and investment or insurance advice—and that's how banks across the globe are making money. We don't want to own a branch where we're making money only from the low maintenance accounts," Jones said.

Of Citibank Savings' 36 branches, 23 are in Metro Manila, seven in Luzon provinces and six in the Visayas and Mindanao. It will open six more branches soon.

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money in this business in the next three to five years so I won't be surprised to see that amount (P1 billion) double," he added.

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its founder, Paul Leo Rasch, for \$1.3 million.

Abpak owns 100-percent of China-based Great Lakes Fresh Foods and Juice Co. Ltd., a leading player in the fruit juice market in China.

Del Monte said in July that it had bought 89 percent of Abpak for \$6.3 million. Of the amount, \$4.3 million was used to acquire shares held by other Abpak shareholders and \$2 million was earmarked for the subscription of new shares in the company's capital.

At the time of Del Monte purchased the 89

percent, the company committed to make an offer for the remaining 11 percent at the same price per share paid to ex-Abpak shareholders plus an accrued annual interest of 3.3 percent.

This additional acquisition will be financed entirely by Del Monte's internal cash reserves and is expected to be completed on July 17.

Abpak will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the DMPL Group.

Although Rasch will no longer be a shareholder, he will remain president of Great Lakes.

## Mirant prepares for its sale, eyes smooth transition

By Abigail L. Ho

**MIRANT PHILIPPINES CORP HAS COMMITTED** to continue normal operations, even while preparing to be auctioned off to a new owner.

"Mirant Philippines will continue to operate normally and will remain committed to their employees and the communities they serve," Mirant Philippines chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste, Jr. said in a statement yesterday.

"We look forward to a smooth and orderly transition, in close coordination with the relevant government agencies, until after our auction process is completed. Our Philippine assets will continue to operate efficiently and deliver on commitments to the government, our clients and our stakeholders," he added.

Atlanta-based Mirant Corp. recently announced that it would be divesting its interest in the Philippines in line with plans to focus on its home business.

Mirant Philippines owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively. It also holds a 20-percent stake in the 1,200-MW Iligan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Its net ownership interest in those three generating facilities come up to 2,203 MW.

Following the American firm's announcement, a well-placed source revealed that several foreign firms, including AIG, OneEnergy Ltd., a 50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.; Korea Electric Power Corp., Tokyo Electric Power Co., and Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc., had already expressed interest in participating in the auction.

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Under this cooperation, Filipino customers can receive and send their cash remittances through Cebuana Lhuillier outlets even during Sundays and public holidays. TMT is looking at a number of options for the Filipino market including cash transactions, receiving the remittance in cash and crediting it to the bank account of the beneficiary or home delivery services.

Philippe Andre Lhuillier said Cebuana has opened 400 branches out of its 800 branches to serve TMT initially.

TMT chief executive officer Mohit Davar said his company was hoping to get a large chunk of the remittance market in the Philippines.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves will sign the loan in behalf of the Philippine gov-

ernment, while US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney will sign in behalf of the US government.

The Department of Finance said in a statement that the rice to be purchased would be sold to the private sector, and proceeds from which would be used for agricultural programs.

The 69,000 metric tons of rice to be imported under the PL480 program would help complete the Philippines total rice importation requirement of 1.87 million metric tons this year.

The importation will be done by the National Food Authority (NFA), which is tasked with ensuring the security of rice supply in the country.

Rice importation under PL480 program came amid proposals from certain government officials seeking the liberalization of rice importation through the lifting of quantitative restrictions imposed on importers.

Importers are subject to a quota and tariff restriction to protect local farmers and the agriculture sector. For the full year of 2006, the quota for private sector importation of rice is 350,000 metric tons. Imports are also slapped a 50-percent duty.

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## BUSINESS



FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

THIS TROUBLING NEWS REPORT APPEARED last July 10: "The government plans to lift the quota restriction on rice imports by the private sector during the lean months of domestic production to help ensure steady supply."

We believe this plan goes against the principles of two international organizations: the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

## COMMENTARY

cure or prosperous for long, if the basic rights of its citizens are not protected."

It is a basic right of a Filipino rice farmer to earn a decent living. Today, most of our rice farmers already live below the poverty line.

Exposing the rice farmers to unlimited rice imports will endanger their human right to a decent livelihood.

This is unfair, especially since government did not provide them the promised agricultural infrastructure and support services necessary for them to compete globally.

To paraphrase Annan, these farmers will then be condemned to poverty without hope, deprived of economic and social development, and subject to increasing peace and security problems. Depriving rice farmers of their economic right may erase the gains hoped for by a military solution that is proving very costly to our nation.

## WTO

The plan to eliminate rice import quotas also runs contrary to the spirit expressed by 110 developing country ministers in a joint statement issued last July 1 in Geneva.

I was able to witness the historic meeting of the G110 (110 underdeveloped and developing countries) at the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Meeting last December 2005.

They united in an even stronger way to announce their July 1 joint statement in Geneva.

On both occasions, DA Secretary Domingo Panganiban and Undersecretary

Siegfredo Serrano took leadership roles.

Now, in our home turf, ill-advised liberalization in the form of lifting rice quotas is being pushed, not by developed countries, but by parts of our own government.

The Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs are the two agencies identified to study the lifting of the rice quota. DA is not even mentioned. For DA to succeed as a key WTO leader in the world stage and fail to protect our rice farmers here would indeed be tragic.

Our decision to lift rice quotas should be guided by the G110 July 1 joint statement: "Markets opening in the developing countries must take into account their social and economic realities."

The Indonesian Minister added: "When you open and liberalize the market, it should not be in a way that has adverse effects to vulnerable groups."

## Centro Saka position

It has been argued that the government proposal to lift rice quotas is irrational and ill-timed. This is specially so since the Philippines is now at the tail end of sensitive negotiations to maintain the rice quantitative restrictions (QR) at the WTO.

Omi Royandoyan, Centro Saka Executive Director said: "Lifting our rice QR, albeit temporarily, might give other countries the necessary ammunition to shoot down our bid to re-examine the import restriction on our basic staple food. This proposal has the potential of unraveling what we already

gained in negotiations on rice QRs."

During the 2004 presidential elections, Centro Saka was part of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition with 39 federations and organizations.

CS convinced Alyansa that keeping rice quotas should be one of six key recommendations to be submitted to the presidential candidates.

The Alyansa would publicize each candidate's position on these recommendations, which would then influence the agricultural vote.

At that time, the current administra-

tion's position was to maintain the rice quotas. It is hoped that the position today will still be the same. Otherwise, this would go against what was publicized in 2004, as well as violate the stated principles of both the UN and the WTO. For more information, please call Rose Bernabe at 924-3767 or 929-6211.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former under-secretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

## Background

At present, if there is an anticipated rice shortage, the government gives a rice import quota. This fills up the shortage. It also helps ensure that there is no rice oversupply, which would depress rice prices and severely decrease farmers' incomes.

According to the minutes of a recent cabinet meeting, the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs have been tasked to study the lifting of the rice quotas for immediate implementation. This endangers the livelihood of some three million rice farmers.

## United Nations pillars

Last June 19, 2006, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan identified "the three pillars on which all the works of the United Nations must be based: peace and security, economic and social development, and human rights."

He explained: "These three are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing and are the prerequisites for our collective well-being. No society can develop without peace and security. No state can be secure if its people are condemned to poverty without hope. And no nation shall be se-

# Gov't urged to hasten plan to set up retirement hubs

## RP seen generating \$40B in revenue from industry

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO step up efforts to position the Philippines as a retirement hub for foreign senior citizens.

Bernardo Villegas, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the Philippine economy could potentially generate \$40 billion in additional revenues over the next 10 years should the government immediately push through with the plan.

Villegas said the Philippines has great potential to develop a so-called retirement industry, given the country's service-oriented and relatively young labor force.

Under the plan to develop a retirement industry—an idea already floated by some government officials—retirement zones for senior citizens should be established.

The zones shall have facilities for health care and leisure, among others, he said.

Villegas said the government should be willing to grant fiscal incentives, such as duty

free importation of hospital equipment, for the successful operation of the zones.

The government should likewise allow the entry of foreign medical practitioners.

He noted that the Constitution does not allow foreign professionals like doctors to practice medicine in the Philippines, which poses a barrier to the development of the industry.

The Philippines, he said, could initially target retirees from Japan at least 65 years old.

These senior citizens, who can live about 20 years more, may opt to retire in the Philippines given that the cost of living here is much lower than in Japan, he said.

Eventually, Villegas said, the Philippines could tap the estimated 100 million senior citizens worldwide.

The economist said that aside from having substantial economic benefits, developing the retirement industry would help address the social problem of Filipinos leaving their families to work abroad.

"Filipino nurses might be encouraged to go home and work here," he said.

## Cebu Pac increases HK flights

By Riza Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. SAID YESTERDAY that it expanded the number of its daily flights to Hong Kong to respond to the clamor for more flights to the Asian hub.

The budget carrier now has three daily flights to the Chek Lap Kok International Airport for a total of 21 a week from 17.

The third flight leaves Manila at 7:25 p.m. and arrives in Hong Kong at 9:25 p.m.

The turnaround flight leaves Hong Kong at 10:10 p.m., arriving in Manila at 12:10 a.m.

Cebu Pacific's fares for the Manila-Hong

Kong route starts at P1,999 one way, excluding surcharges and travel taxes.

Cebu Pacific said that it increased the frequency of flights to Hong Kong in response to steadily increasing demand after the introduction of its "Go" fares to Hong Kong in January this year.

The airline of the Gokongwei group of companies used to fly to Singapore but it scrapped the flight due to the lack of passengers.

Cebu Pacific, however, plans to revive the flight by August and perhaps mount a flight to Japan by September.

## Study details firms' woes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENTREPRENEURS STILL RELY primarily on their own money to develop their business, according to a professor of the Asian Institute of Management.

Eduardo A. Morato Jr., a former dean of the AIM, said this was one of the major findings of a study he conducted covering 180 entrepreneurs from four high-growth areas and two low-growth areas in the country.

Morato said entrepreneurs rely on their own resources because there was "very limited" equity or venture financing in the country.

Morato cited a related study of the International Labor Organization to the Rural Economic Enterprises and Development, which showed that 80 percent of 1,341 respondent-entrepreneurs claimed they obtained their financing from personal savings.

The ILO study also showed

that of the financing that came from loans, 29 percent came from relatives, 41 percent from loan sharks, 6 percent from banks, 6 percent from cooperatives and 21 percent from formal sources like lending in-

Morato said advocates of entrepreneurship, as well as public development agencies, should endeavor to design, encourage and promote equity financing apart from traditional loan financing schemes.

"There are successful equity financing models in other countries which could be replicated in the Philippines," he said.

Morato presented the findings of his study during the three-day International Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship in Asia held at the AIM last week.

Morato defined social entrepreneurs as those who help budding entrepreneurs improve their productivity, profitability and professionalism.

## Invitation to submit letter of intent

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as Project Sponsor is hereby inviting prospective challengers/bidders to submit their Letter of Intent expressing interest for the "Smart Challenge" of the proposal to Finance, Design, Construct, Operate and Maintain the 18.9-km North Luzon East Expressway (NLE E), Stage 1, Segments 1 & 2 "La Mesa Parkways" (La Mesa Avenue, Quezon City-San Jose de Monte, Norzagaray, Bulacan), using the Water-Sensitive Urban Tollroad Technology to include the catchments, waste filtration, production, storage and distribution of raw water submitted by the Auspicio Tollways Corporation, the original proponent of the project through the Unolicited mode of the Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) Scheme.

The proposed bidding shall be conducted and facilitated together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as Co-Sponsor and Implementing Agency, and governed by the BOT Law (RA No. 7716) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and revised.

Submission of the Letter of Intent shall not be later than 17 July 2006 and addressed to:

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)  
Ground Floor, Engineering Building  
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System  
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City  
Tel. No. 922-25-68/928-56-91  
(Sgt.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE

DOI - July 7 &amp; 14, 2006

## SAMAR 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Brig. Carayman, Calbayog City  
Tel. No. (055) 2098-2111

## INVITATION TO BID

July 7, 2006

The SAMAR 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMECO 1) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

- Supply of labor for the construction of its expansion projects.
- Supply and delivery of the various electrical hardware and equipment for line construction, operation and maintenance.
- Supply and delivery steel poles, anchor logs (wood) and crossarms.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and bidding documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) in the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

SAMECO 1 Headquarters  
Brig. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

- Company Profile
- List of Clients served

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 7, 2006 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or bidder's representative at the address above at 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006.

The Bids and Awards Committee

DOI - July 13, 14 &amp; 16, 2006

# Messages:

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Greetings to the officers and employees of The Real Bank on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary.

Your theme, "ALKANSYA 2006," shows your active participation in helping kids become productive citizens by inculcating in them the values of saving and the careful management of resources. Through your credo, "Upholding Filipino Values, Supporting Filipino Dreams," your savings advocacy campaign has already reached a total of 120,000 students in 25 schools. You have truly imbued in them valuable lessons in thrift as it becomes essential in becoming productive and responsible adults. I commend you for your continued dedication in protecting the interests of your clients, especially the small depositors who save to secure a better future for themselves and their loved ones.

More power and MABUHAY!

*Gloria Arroyo*  
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

## FROM THE GOVERNOR BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS



Congratulations to The Real Bank for marking its 30th anniversary!

As you commemorate this historic occasion, I trust that you will stay true to your corporate dictum of "Upholding Filipino Values, Supporting Filipino Dreams." You are doing a fine job of empowering the youth through your savings advocacy campaign. This definitely helps in instilling values among the youth so they will learn to appreciate the economical use of resources.

I also call on the Bank to continually strive for growth and excellence—a challenge that confronts all banking industry players. Banks would do well to enhance their financial strength, adhere to sound corporate governance practices and boost their competitive advantage by honing excellence in specific target markets.

I encourage you to continue on a similar proactive stance in rising up to the challenge and to remain supportive of the BSP's policies and reform initiatives that are geared toward ensuring greater stability and efficiency of the banking system.

With vision to guide us and with steadfast action, together we can be assured of success in this endeavor.

Mabuhay po kayo!

*Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD THE REAL BANK



It is with great honor and pride that we present the new The Real Bank to our clients, our partners and friends on its 30th year as we aptly call our celebration ALKANSYA 2006 – Ang Lakas ng Kabuhayan Ay Nakabalay Sa Yamang dagmumula sa tamang Aral.

We ground our Bank's new direction towards Upholding Filipino Values and Supporting Filipino Dreams. The first steps we have taken have essentially laid the foundation for this new direction. Now, we continue to stay on this same course—this time directing our efforts toward serving the needs of the Filipino worker. Having set down the values we believe to be essentials of nation building, we pursue this path that will actively help support the Filipino achieve his dreams.

This is the road we have chosen to take and that which we will actively follow. Our victory will greatly depend on strong partnerships that we are able to build within our organization, with our industry partners and with our friends.

Above all, The Real Bank shall remain to provide REAL service to our clients who have placed their trust in us knowing that we are expected to do no less.

*Jose G. Araullo*



The Real Bank celebrates its 30th Anniversary this July 14, 2006 by drawing closer to its goal of transforming itself into a "Workers' Bank" for millions of Filipinos.

Bank Chairman Jose Araullo outlined the steps taken by the Bank in recent years to bring the Bank along the path of a more stable and profitable operations. He also revealed his ultimate vision of how the Bank will eventually tap into the workers' market segment—a lucrative—but relatively undeveloped market.

"Banks have, by and large, catered to this segment with a mixture of cautious cooperation and sometimes, downright uncertainty. We don't see any local bank devoting a substantial part of its resources to broadcast a clear and consistent stand in serving this market. And yet everyday, we acknowledge that Filipino workers, both here and abroad, contribute a lot of value to our economy. This is a gap which we intend to address at the soonest time."

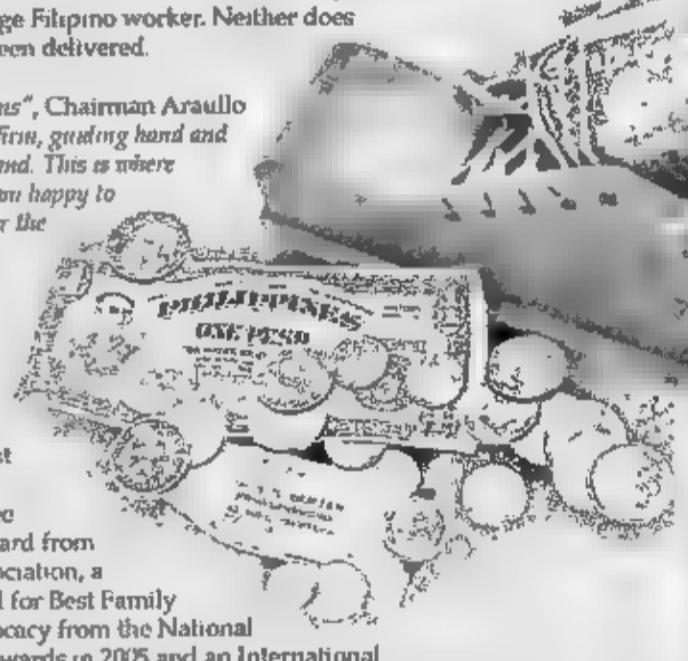
Chairman Araullo went on to explain that Overseas Filipino workers sent home a staggering USD 10.689 billion last year, with current economic indicators pointing to a much bigger figure even before the year is over. On the other hand, domestic workers have also done their share in the export and import sectors, where the most updated government data shows a production value of PHP 41.255 Billion in 2005 and PHP 47.418 Billion respectively.

Although local banks tend to carry this segment in their deposit and loan portfolios, Chairman Araullo lamented that this exposure is just considered as a part of the banks' over-all balance sheet, and may not even be of sufficient magnitude to impact the average Filipino worker. Neither does Chairman Araullo think that the proper service levels have been delivered.

"It's not just simply a matter of accepting deposits or giving out loans", Chairman Araullo added. "We must realize that our clients also need to be extended a firm, guiding hand and instilled with the proper mindset, as well. These factors go hand-in-hand. This is where The Real Bank's advocacies and value-added services come in. And I am happy to say that our Bank has consistently and consciously delivered these over the three years since we took over management of The Real Bank."

The Bank's cornerstone advocacy—the "Bata...Bata...Mag-Impok at Magsnrop" Savings Advocacy Campaign has imparted much awareness for thriftiness among schoolchildren for the past three years. In fact, the Program has reaped three awards to date—one award from the Asian Banker's Association, a Golden Citation Award for Best Family and Community Advocacy from the National Consumers Quality Awards in 2005 and an International Citation Certificate from the Global Excellence Awards Committee.

The Bank sees this advocacy as merely an interim stage toward crafting a more comprehensive program for the Filipino worker.



"Today, the thrift campaign is invited to Filipino schoolchildren. In the future, we also intend to bring in their parents—who are also incidentally Filipino workers—into the Bank's sphere of influence", the Chairman continued. "Once they're inside our Bank's orbit, they will realize just how relevant and appropriate our products and services can be for their specific requirements."

The Chairman traced the initiatives that the Bank undertook over the past years to prepare itself to serve this segment better.

Peso deposit portfolio increased to PHP 2.768 billion as of June 2006 from the previous level of PHP 1.323 Billion in June 2003. Average interest rate on peso deposit was likewise reduced significantly, without sacrificing competitiveness in the market. Meanwhile, USDollar deposits increased from USD 750 Thousand to USD 1.6 Million from yearago levels.

The Bank also resumed lending operations, with new loans generated amounting to PHP 2.592 Billion. The lower cost of deposits resulted in more competitive lending rates for the Bank's borrowers.

"To prove our sincerity in bringing about these changes, we are currently in the middle of finalizing plans to increase paid-up capital so that we can be more flexible with our strategies. Once the proper regulatory approvals come in, we expect that the additional capital will be forthcoming before the end of the third quarter of this year", the Chairman reported.

The Real Bank will host a cocktail party for its valued clients and selected honorees at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



**The Real Bank**

A Truly Safe

**Board of Directors**  
Jose G. Araullo  
Chairman of the Board

Alfredo S. Barreto  
President

Jose L. Acuzar  
Atty. Marcial O.T. Balgos  
Eduardo Plana

**Officers**  
Edgardo O. Ignacio  
Executive VP

Maximo V. Estrada  
First Senior VP

**Senior VPs**  
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Rogelio S. Aguilar  
Francisco E. Bulego

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Irenna P. Layco  
Jeffrey R. Tugade  
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Anna Luisa S. Ochoa

Assistant VPs  
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Ariel D. Gonzales  
Rogelio D. Montebello  
Esther P. Wible  
Eleanor S. Bautista

Atty. B. Martin  
Carmelito A. Tan  
Mia. Aurora S. Cuevas  
Samson W. Ago

# Upholding Filipino Values & Supporting Filipino Dreams for 30 years



The Real Bank  
A Thrift Bank

## Celebrating a milestone with Alkansya 2006



July 17, 2006 marks a significant milestone for The Real Bank as it celebrates its 30th anniversary with ALKANSYA 2006 - which stands for Ang Lakas ng Kabuhayan Ay Nakasalay Sa Yamang dulot ng Imaang Aral.

True to its new image and dictum of 'Upholding Filipino Values and Supporting Filipino Dreams' launched in 2004, The Real Bank, which was then placed under the leadership and management of Jose G. Araullo and Alfredo S. Barretto - both well known and experienced bankers and business icons, strove to evolve from its reserved and low-profile image to that which is aggressive, courageous, pro-active and highly professional.

Serving as the cornerstone of this new image is the Bank's savings advocacy project with

the Department of Education called "Bata-Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" which, to date, has already won three major awards that include citations from the 2005 Asian Banking Awards, the National Consumers' Quality Awards of 2005 for Family and Community Advocacy and the 2005 Global Excellence Award for Best Family and community Advocacy.

Coupled with various improvement and development programs that enhanced the organization as well as the operations and control, The Real Bank managed to significantly advance its status in the thrift bank industry with a marked improvement in its total resources, deposit base, loan and investment portfolio and paid up capital.

At 30, The Real Bank stands tall and proud as it makes its way to the top and become one of the country's partners in nation building

by providing quality banking services and reviving Filipino values that are valuable to the Filipino's success.

For the first semester of 2006 alone, The Real Bank has added three new valuable products to its clients-the Real CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan" ATM services which effectively makes their ATM account holders their partners in its savings advocacy campaign; the Real Earnings which offers high yields for long term deposits, and the Real Deal which offers affordable auto loan packages. All these were launched to attest to the sincerity of The Real Bank to provide more REAL services to its clients.



### AN ARAULLO FAMILY TRADITION EVOLVES INTO AN ADVOCACY

1940's - During the war years when Filipino families were experiencing the effects of destitution, Dr. Alfonso Araullo decided to turn that period of distress into an opportunity for his whole family to learn discipline, wise use of resources and saving. Leading his family amidst scarcity caused by the economic situation in the country, he carefully taught his children the value of thriftness and saving. With a firm resolution, he encouraged all his nine children to exercise and develop the habit of saving part of their money in coin banks. He would ask them to line up and personally count these every Christmas and offer an equivalent reward to the one who would have the most savings. He would write down the amount of saving of each child on a piece of paper and would continue monitoring their progress.



Now, over 50 years after, Jose G. Araullo, second son of Dr. Alfonso Araullo, the current Chairman of the Board of The Real Bank has turned that precious family tradition into his personal as well as the Bank's advocacy.

Given the opportunity to lead the organization to new and greater heights, Chairman Araullo re-focused the new Real Bank towards upholding sound Filipino values

by which their father raised them, and supporting Filipino dreams as how he himself achieved his own dreams. Using what he strongly and sincerely believes to be a legacy that was passed on to him by his father, he now passes on this value of saving and thriftness not only to his own children but to other Filipino children trusting that having sound values such as these will help our youth become effective nation builders.

Thus, when presented with the opportunity of partnering with the country's educators in instilling the values of saving and thriftness among grade school students, Mr. Araullo recognized the realization of a personal

The "Bata-Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Savings Advocacy Campaign served as Mr. Araullo's very own contribution to nation-building. As the Bank's orientation evolved into value formation and revival as a major channel of achieving economic stability and financial vigor, advocating these positive values seemed to be the best way to do just that.

Today, the Araullo family tradition lives on.



### 2006 Alkansya Competition Results

The Real Bank's "Bata-Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Savings Advocacy Campaign, now on its third year, was expanded for the school year 2006-2007 as the number of participating schools was increased from 25 to 35 and region-wide contests include not only art painting but also essay writing competition.

Because of the overwhelming positive and encouraging response from participating schools' teachers, students and parents included in the program for its first two years, many private and public schools requested to be integrated in the school-based advocacy campaign realizing how teaching the values of saving and saving to children can truly help them become future nation-builders.

Expansion of the program was also made possible by the active participation of the Bank's clients through The Real Bank's Real

CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan", the ATM account that actually makes accountholders partners of the Bank in advocating these values.

The Year 3 program also invites active participation of the communities as the schools themselves promote saving through murals that strategically display the value of saving with the words "Make every centavo count."

With the perfect collaboration of schools, parents, and organizations like The Real Bank, advocating sound Filipino values like savings and thriftness will surely achieve its goal of helping kids become nation builders.



An excerpt from the winning entry of Max Lorraine J. Fernadez, Real Kiddie Savers' Club member of The Real Bank Balingas Branch, in the Real Bank's "ALKANSYA" essay writing contest for its Real Kiddie Savers' Club members held last June 17, 2006.



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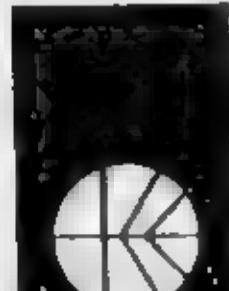
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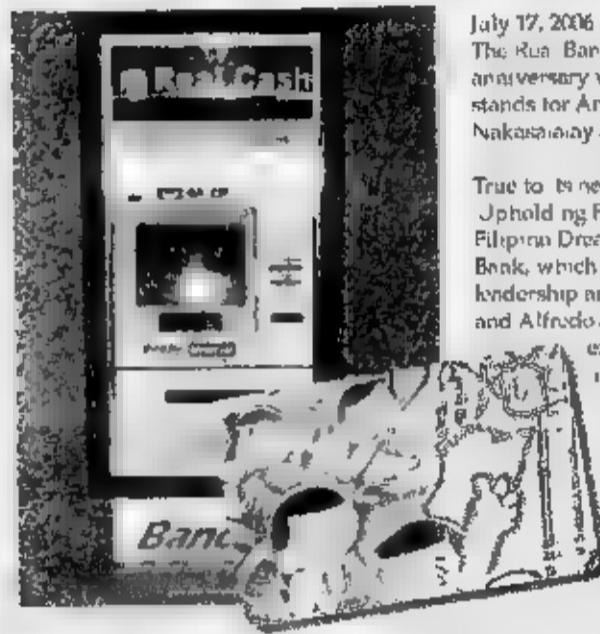
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

# Upholding Filipino Values & Supporting Filipino Dreams for 30 years



The Real Bank  
A Thrift Bank

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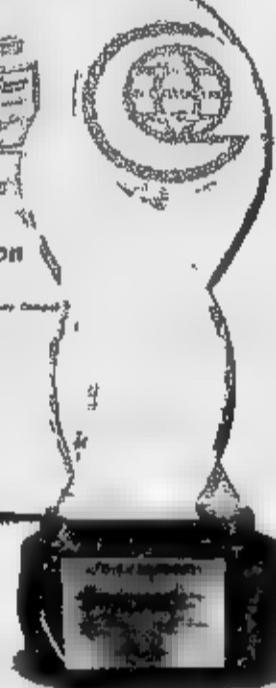
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Asian Banking Awards 2005

**Certificate of Recognition**



Kids On ALKANSYA

"Hirap natin ang iba ang alam mo, di ba ang magiging parang apan ang iyong mga pangangailangan sa darating na bawas ay maaaring makita. Mag-impok ka, kung hindi ngayon, kakaibang pa? Kung hindi mo, also pa? Mag-impok na!"

An excerpt from the winning entry of Miss Lorrie L. Fernando, Real Kidz Savers Club member of The Real Bank Baling Branch, in The Real Bank's "ALKANSYA" essay writing contest for its Real Kidz Savers' Club members held last June 17, 2006.

### AN ARAULLO FAMILY TRADITION EVOLVES INTO AN ADVOCACY

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Greetings from

## Invitation to Apply for Accreditation as a Value-Added Solutions Provider for the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites eligible Value-Added Solutions Providers (VASPs) for the Development, Installation and Implementation of the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System.

A complete set of Accreditation Documents (with the Guidelines and Application Form) may be secured by interested Applicants from 14-21 July 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below. The Accreditation Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Applicant or his authorized representative.

Applications for accreditation must be delivered to the address below on or before 5:00 p.m. of 31 August 2005.

PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Application, to cancel the accreditation process, and to reject all Applications at any time prior to the issuance of Accreditation Certificate, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Applicant/s.

**PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY**  
Management Information Systems (MIS) Department  
2/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City  
Telephone No. 651-9591, Telefax No. 651-3439  
Email: [mis@peza.gov.ph](mailto:mis@peza.gov.ph)  
Website: [www.peza.gov.ph](http://www.peza.gov.ph)

## GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF VALUE-ADDED SOLUTIONS PROVIDERS FOR THE ELECTRONIC IMPORT PERMIT SYSTEM (eIPS)

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) pursues the need to roll-out mission critical applications to further enhance its delivery of services in support of the growth and development of economic zone enterprises. One of the mission critical applications is the filing of Import Permits by PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises with tax and duty-free importation incentives. In order to simplify and facilitate the processing of Import Permits, PEZA will implement the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS) through Value-Added Solutions Providers (VASPs).

Pursuant to PEZA Board Resolution No. 06-261 approving the implementation of the eIPS project, the following guidelines for the accreditation of VASPs for the development and operation of the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System, are hereby prescribed and promulgated for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned:

**Section 1. Definition of Terms.** In connection with the PEZA accreditation of VASPs for the development and operation of automated systems such as the eIPS, the following definitions are hereby adopted:

- a. Electronic Import Permit System or eIPS shall refer to an online system for filing and processing of PEZA Import Permit applications of PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises which ensures that importations covered by the enterprises' tax and duty-free importation privilege are limited to machinery and equipment, raw materials, parts and components and other production inputs required for the manufacture of their registered products and/or operation of their registered activities;
- b. Value-Added Service Providers or VASPs are reputable IT enterprises with the technical expertise and capability for the development, installation and implementation of eIPS inside economic zones, which will allow economic zone enterprises to have their Import Permit applications processed on a round-the-clock (i.e., 24x7) basis.

**Section 2. Required Components of the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS).** The eIPS, which PEZA-accredited VASPs shall operate continuously on a round-the-clock basis, shall have the following automated components:

- a. Electronic module for the preparation and submission of the Import Permit (eIPS) application, in compliance with the data requirements and specification of PEZA;
- b. Electronic and secured data network infrastructure for the connectivity for PEZA-registered enterprises or their respective authorized representatives to eIPS;
- c. Electronic module for the validation of the items declared in the eIPS application against the respective list of importables as approved by PEZA and other screening parameters as may be specified by PEZA;
- d. Electronic module for the collection of payment of the PEZA Processing Fee for Import Permit applications (e.g., e-banking, G-cash, auto-debit, etc.), as well as recording and reporting of each payment collected;
- e. Electronic module for validation of the ownership of every import shipment, to be triggered by the payment of the PEZA Processing Fee for the application for an Import Permit for such shipment; and
- f. Electronic module for confirmation of delivery to the economic zone destination of every tax and duty-exempt import shipment released on the basis of a PEZA Import Permit processed under the eIPS.

**Section 3. Qualifications of VASP for PEZA Accreditation.** Value-Added Solutions Providers seeking accreditation with PEZA shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- a. A minimum of three (3) consecutive years of actual involvement in the development and implementation of electronic systems/ solutions, in the business, industrial or public sector projects or undertaking;
- b. Possess in-house technical expertise and capability for developing and implementing electronic/automated systems, and/or partnership with other IT organizations/ facilities that will ensure access to specialized expertise on customs procedures, security infrastructures for network/ electronic systems;
- c. Familiarity with Import-Export transactions of PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises, customs cargo clearance procedures and related operations;
- d. Has the capacity to provide a 24x7 non-stop service;
- e. Willing to adjust and further test their proposed solution to satisfy other requirements or perform related operations or processes that PEZA may decide to incorporate in its Import Permit processing function;

- f. Willing to install and provide PEZA with access to the approved solution at no cost, as well as the database generated on all Import Permit applications processed.

Provided, that the verification for the compliance by a VASP with these minimum qualifications shall include an evaluation of the following performance and capability indicators:

- a. Three operating electronic/automated systems developed and installed by the VASP for client organizations, which the client organizations had formally acknowledged as effectively providing the solutions required, as specified in the service contract for the VASP's engagement;
- b. In-house staff complement with relevant educational qualifications, experience in the fields of Enterprise Systems Design and Development, Software Applications Development, Database Architecture and Administration, Network Design and Administration, and IT Training; and
- c. Formal or documented relationship with other IT organizations with specialized expertise or capabilities relevant to the development and implementation of the eIPS.

**Section 4. Compliance of the Proposed eIPS to PEZA Minimum Requirements.** The eIPS should satisfy the minimum requirements outlined in Annex A, which shall form part of these guidelines. In addition, PEZA shall determine the effectiveness of the proposed eIPS in complying with the objectives of the Authority's Import Permit issuing function, through conduct of live test-processing of actual Import Permit applications of economic zone enterprises.

The proposed eIPS should also be compatible with the requirements of the automated Import cargo transfer system being developed by the Bureau of Customs as part of its computerization program.

**Section 5. Responsibilities of a PEZA-accredited VASP.** A PEZA-accredited VASP shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Undertake, at no cost to PEZA, the development, testing, installation, operation and maintenance of their respective systems to comply with PEZA requirements in the implementation of the eIPS;
- b. Provide efficient and continuous round-the-clock electronic Import Permit application processing service to PEZA and PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises,
- c. In cooperation with the PEZA-accredited banks, immediately collect and automatically deposit in PEZA-designated accounts appropriate Processing Fees on all Import Permit applications successfully processed under the eIPS;
- d. Provide PEZA daily reports on PEZA Import Permit applications processed by the eIPS and fees collected;
- e. To provide support and assistance required for the training of PEZA personnel on the operation of the eIPS and related activities free of charge.

**Section 6. Other Terms and Conditions for PEZA-accreditation of VASPs.** PEZA-accredited VASPs shall comply with the following additional terms and conditions for their accreditation:

- a. The VASP shall use the eIPS solely for the processing of Import Permit applications of authorized economic zone enterprises;
- b. In consultation with PEZA, coordinate with PEZA-approved banks on arrangements required for the operation of the web-based electronic payment system for the collection and deposit of the Import Permit Processing Fee in designated PEZA accounts;
- c. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall develop, pilot-test and provide an electronic system for the processing of Import Permits in accordance with the minimum requirements enumerated in Annex A hereof and such other requirements that PEZA may consider necessary for the implementation of the eIPS;
- d. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall make available to authorized PEZA-registered enterprises and their nominated brokers, as well as economic zones and PEZA-Customs Documentation Units (PCDUs), on a round-the-clock (24x7) basis, access to the eIPS for the processing of IP applications and assistance;
- e. The VASP may charge authorized PEZA-registered enterprises using its eIPS for the processing of Import Permit applications a market-determined Transaction Service Automation Fee;
- f. The VASP shall secure written PEZA clearance prior to entering into any arrangement and/or agreement with any entity (e.g., Bureau of Customs, banks, etc.) pertaining to the implementation of the eIPS;
- g. The VASP shall provide training for PEZA officers and personnel, as well as economic zone enterprises on the use of the eIPS;
- h. The VASP shall generate and submit to PEZA daily reports on eIPS processed applications, including PEZA IP Processing Fees collected;
- i. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall provide assistance on the day-to-day operation and maintenance of eIPS, as may be necessary;
- j. As authorized by PEZA, the VASP shall establish the necessary link and/or transmission of data to the BOC System;
- k. The VASP shall notify PEZA within 60 days of any planned suspension, or termination of services;
- l. Depending on the gravity of the violation, PEZA shall impose penalties in the form of fine not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) upon the VASP for violation of these guidelines or any of the PEZA rules;
- m. The VASP agrees to keep and hold PEZA and its officers free and harmless from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses of any legal action, claims and/or judgments arising out of or by reason of any injury or liability caused by any person relating to the services and operation of the eIPS it designed and is implementing;
- n. The VASP shall execute an Undertaking/ Warranty Against Liability to Indemnify PEZA and/or PEZA-registered enterprises availing of its services for damages arising from the operation of the eIPS and signifying that persistent defects in the eIPS shall be sufficient ground for the cancellation of the accreditation of the VASP.

**Section 7. Documentary Requirements for PEZA Accreditation as VASP.** A VASP may apply for accreditation with PEZA by submitting the following requirements:

- a. Fully accomplished PEZA Application Form for VASP [REDACTED]
- b. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, and Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
- c. Valid Mayor's/Business Permit or Municipal License

- d. Applicant's Notarized Undertaking to serve as guarantee of performance

- e. Anti-Graft Certificate (R.A. 3019)

- f. Applicant's Notarized Undertaking/Warranty Against Liability

- g. Certificate of Filing of Application

- h. Bio-data of Principal Officers

- i. Certification under oath by the VASP or its duly authorized representative that all documents submitted in connection with its application for PEZA accreditation is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.

- j. Detailed Information on three (3) or more operational systems it has developed for client organizations, which shall include the following (please use the Project Data Sheet Format in Annex F):

- 1) Client organization and CEO or Project Manager responsible for contracting development of the Project

- 2) Project Name and Narrative Description of the Project

- 3) The name and contact details of the client organization

- 4) Date and duration of the contract

- 5) Description of the functions/services of the client organization which were automated; components, modules and features of the automated system; and the benefits resulting from implementation of the automated system, for the client organization as well as other parties involved

- 6) Any proof of satisfactory completion of the development, installation and implementation of the system, particularly commendations issued by the client organization and other beneficiaries

- 7) A detailed project proposal describing how the minimum requirements for the eIPS will be delivered and maintained by the VASP. The proposal shall indicate fees/cost to be imposed on users and on PEZA.

**Section 8. Fees.** Fees for accreditation of the VASP covered by these guidelines shall be as follows:

- a. Filing fee - P3,600.00

- b. Accreditation Fee - P6,000.00

**Section 9. Duration of Accreditation.** The Certificate of Accreditation which shall be issued by the Director General or her duly authorized representative shall be effective for a period of two years and renewable every two years thereafter, subject to payment of the Accreditation Fee.

**Section 10. Suspension or Cancellation of Accreditation.** Any misrepresentation in connection with the application or violation of the provisions of this guideline or any PEZA rules and regulations shall be sufficient ground for the suspension or cancellation of accreditation as VASP without prejudice to imposition of penalties pursuant to RA 7916 as amended and its implementing rules and regulations.

**Section 11. Repealing clause.** All rules and regulations of PEZA not consistent with these guidelines are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 12. Effectivity.** These guidelines shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation and shall take effect immediately following such publication.

## ANNEX A

### Minimum Requirements for the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS)

The Automated Systems developed must have the following minimum requirements:

#### A. Environment and Technical Capability

- 1. A front-end system or web-based interface, secured, scalable and user-friendly application
- 2. Systems, network and connectivity backup and recovery systems in place
- 3. Assured access by economic zone enterprises, PEZA economic zone and PCDU users to the systems of all accredited VASPs using the same computer

#### B. Enrolment System

- 1. Open to all economic zone enterprises which enjoy tax and duty-free importation privilege on raw materials, parts and components, machinery and equipment and other production inputs required for their PEZA-registered activities in accordance with specific guidelines to be issued by PEZA
- 2. Open to PEZA-accredited brokers formally authorized by qualified economic zone enterprises, subject to the validity period of the brokers' PEZA accreditation

#### C. Screening Parameters

- 1. PEZA-Registered Enterprise registered for the eIPS
- 2. PEZA-accredited brokers duly nominated by the respective PEZA-registered enterprise
- 3. PEZA-Approved List of Importables
- 4. Item/Product Codes or Item Description
- 5. HS Codes
- 6. Payment of PEZA Fees

#### D. Electronic Payment Component

- 1. e-Payment through accredited Banks
- 2. Auto-Debit (advance payment to PEZA)
- 3. e-Payment through mobile phone fund transfer services (i.e. G-Cash)
- 4. Others solutions that may be proposed later

- E. Electronic Broadcasting or System to provide enterprises timely pre-alert information on all import shipments attributed to them

- 1. SMS or email message to PEZA-registered enterprise

- 2. Automatic processing if positive reply or time to reply lapsed, and Alert Notification by the PEZA-registered enterprise for the suspension of processing if ownership is denied

#### F. Delivery confirmation of Import shipment at the zone destination

- 1. Online confirmation of receipt of goods at the economic zone, either by the PEZA-registered Enterprise or by the PEZA Zone Office

#### G. Reportorial Requirements

- 1. Daily reports on actual eIPS applications and status
- 2. Daily reports on collections and remittances to the PEZA Account
- 3. Periodic summary reports

#### H. Ownership of Data

- 1. PEZA to own the List of Importables and eIPS database





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fashions.



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shopping pleasure. Go ahead. Grab, try and buy.

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at a hip  
restaurant row.



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and West. Choose from casual  
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away from home. And delight in al fresco  
gourmet feasts as you watch live performances.



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at the play areas.

Nurture neighborly ties. Lounge with friends at the  
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Hone your game at the badminton and  
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**Young Adults Who Completely Agree With The Statements**  
 (Indeed among 12-35 year-olds vs. All Adults 16-50, urban nationwide)

I am more confident to buy a product if it is favorably mentioned in media that I trust	110
I think brands favorably mentioned in the press (not ads) are more trustworthy.	115
The opinion of friends/family often influence my purchase decisions	111

Table 1

**Upper Class Who Completely Agree with the Statements**  
 (Indeed among people from A homes vs. All Adults from all socio-classes, urban nationwide)

Word-of-mouth is a good way to find out about products and services.	112
I usually try to influence the opinion of my family/friends before they buy products	113

Table 2

# BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quiapo-Espino

## 'Chikahan' fast becoming marketer's strongest tool

Consumers now spend a lot of time talking about brand experiences

WORD-OF-MOUTH HAS REGAINED the marketer's attention around the world as consumers spend a lot of time talking about brand experiences with others around them, particularly family and friends. It helps that technological advancements on the

Internet and mobile phone facilitate the exchange of information and experiences more easily.

Here in the Philippines, media agency Universal McCann furthered the exploration of word-of-mouth through its proprietary

\*CHIKAHAN/B3

## Wal-Mart exec comes to Manila

WAL-MART, THE UNDISPUTED RETAIL leader worldwide, which in 2004 grossed \$288.19 billion, according to Stores Magazine's 2005 Triversity Top 100 Retailers ranking, comes to Manila this August.

Its low-price big box store model has been copied by retailers worldwide with the hope of replicating its success. But no one has been able to topple the retail giant founded by Sam Walton.

The Philippines will feel Wal-Mart's presence through its Director for Development Ben Cornish who will talk about Wal-Mart's presence in the world's largest consumer market in his topic "Global Retailing Innovation: The Wal-Mart China Experience."

He is scheduled to be at the 15th National Retailers Conference on Aug. 10-11, 2006 at the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong and its twin activity, the 15th Stores Asia Expo on Aug. 9-11 (15th NRCE).

"Innovation in an Age of Complexities" is the theme of 2006 NRCE which is organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (Tel. No. 687-4180/81, Fax 6360825; email: pra@nwavenet.net; Telefax 6874985), the acknowledged national organization of retailers in the country and sponsored by Versacard and PLDT Business Solutions.

Supported by Ayala Center, SM, Araneta Center and Robinsons, the 15th retailers confab will also feature other global speakers like retail guru and keynote speaker Dr. Dale Achabal from the Santa Clara University, California, and Singapore's Steven Goh, executive director of Retail Asia, the leading retail business magazine.

The country's Entrepreneur of the Year 2005 Robinsons Land president/COO Lance Gokongwei is the guest of honor opening the two-day conference while Elizabeth Lee, Universal Motors (Nissan) senior vice president and CAMPI president will keynote Day Two.

## Latest corporate giveaways, solutions unveiled

THE LATEST IN CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS and business solutions is set to be unveiled at the Corporate World 2006 buyers' show at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on July 14-16.

On exhibit are corporate business gifts, marketing tools, below-the-line advertising specialties, and promotional novelties and premiums that corporate firms use to strengthen their company goodwill, enhance their products' brand visibility and recall, and establish personal affinity with consumers and industry peers.

These products will be showcased under Corporate Giveaways, the Philippines' longest running buyers' show on such items of enormous corporate and marketing significance.

Now on its 19th year, Corporate Giveaways comes back to back with Corporate Solutions to constitute the Corporate World, dubbed as the country's ultimate corporate show.

Corporate Solutions, which is on its 3rd year, complements Corporate Giveaways through a wide array of business solutions, marketing support services, and office equipment and supplies, among many others.

"Both (Corporate Giveaways and Corporate Solutions) will make the three-day Corporate World 2006 an exciting, convenient and fun-filled get-together for buyers and sellers in discussing and determining their year-round corporate requirements. It (Corporate World 2006) is a one-stop buying destination," said general manager Raquel Romero of Worldexco, the event organizer.

For more information, call Worldexco, 8558342 to 45.

**Mass Market Who Completely Agree with the Statements**  
 (Indeed among people from D homes vs. All Adults from all socio-classes, urban nationwide)

I am more confident to buy a product if it is favorably mentioned in media that I trust	112
News about a product that I don't use makes me willing to try it.	113
I think brands favorably mentioned in the press (not ads) are more trustworthy.	114

Table 3

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THE COLUMNS  
Ayala Avenue

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**Participating products:**

**EXPRESS TELLER SAVINGS**

The fully-loaded ATM account that lets you go cashless shopping, pay your bills, transfer funds and more. Enjoy banking convenience through the ATM, the Internet, landline or mobile phone.

**JUMPSTART SAVINGS**

The savings account specially designed for teens and pre-teens to teach them the basics of money management.

**MAX-ONE**

Enjoy interest on all your funds with the superior all-in-one product that combines the features of a savings and a checking account.

**MULTI-EARNER**

Earn higher interest than regular savings plus, bonus interest when you don't withdraw in a month.

**PLATINUM SAVINGS**

The superior, high earning savings account and insurance package in one.

Regular Passbook Savings, Platinum for Kids Multi-Earner Plus, Express Teller Checking, Regular Checking, BPI Direct Savings, BPI Direct Checking, Express Dollar Savings, US Dollar Passbook Savings, Third Currency Passbook Savings, Peso Time Deposits and Foreign Currency Time Deposits.

**PLUS!**

Get a free BPI Electronic Gift Card worth P1,000 for every P300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account!

Period covered: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See rules for details. PN-1311 AC/R. Permit No. 0470 Series of 2006.

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## B2 BUSINESS Friday

## 'Chikahan' becoming ...

From page B2

qualitative in nature, allowing for a free-wheeling expression of one's thoughts and feelings. More than 20 groups have been done across the country exploring this topic.

Whether on or off, most people consider other people as their easiest and most frequent access to the outside world. This starts the wheels spinning for word-of-mouth, or chikahan in local parlance. This occurrence could work two ways for a brand: create or sustain awareness and empathy for it, and provide useful information about it.

The best thing about it is that people take liberty in spreading it, and the recipient usually takes it to heart because the word is more often than not from someone close to him and thus highly relevant and credible. As one consumer in Bicol put it: "Minsan yang napapanud naming sa TV, hundi naming pinapansin kasi di naman nangyayari sa akin. Pero yung galing sa kabigan o kaming-anak, binibugyan mo ng halaga kasi malapit sa 'yo 'yun, maaring mangyari sa 'yo."

Of course, not all categories would be directly influenced by word-of-mouth or buzz. The Media in MindTM yields the top four categories whose sales may be positively influenced by buzz: fashion/clothing (24 percent), fastfood restaurants (21 percent), hair care (20 percent) and personal hygiene (19 percent). We see that these are lifestyle categories, which means that specific consumer segments will adopt a trend earlier than others.

The young and the upscale, for instance, ride the fashion trend earlier than most, which makes them key influencers in this category. The upper and middle classes, on the other hand, will serve as good influencers for fastfood restaurants as they tend to try new offerings immediately. Chikahan also leads to information sharing about brands, and the top 5 categories that seem to be driven by this are: financial services/investments, tires, cars, computer/IT equipment (all at 44 percent) and air travel (43 percent).

This shows how important it is for people to get correct and complete information in

investment categories. This clamor for product knowledge seems to be stronger for women and those belonging to the 36-50 age range.

Why is this "medium" effective, what makes people buy into what other people say? We picked certain statements in the survey, looked at the ones consumers completely agree with, and compared the indices (Indexing is comparing percentages of a specific segment versus the rest of the population). The numbers show varying sentiments. Here are some interesting points.

Young adults (those belonging to the 22-35 year-old range) consider credible opinion leaders as brand confidence-boosters. They believe that opinions shared are often based on brand experience, proof that something works (or doesn't). (See Table 1)

The upscale market empowers itself with information in order to make sound choices. What makes them powerful advocates is that their knowledge about a brand doesn't just stay with them. They are the type who would tend to use their knowledge by caring to explain it to other consumers, easily convincing them to try it. (See Table 2)

Mass market who completely agree with the statements

(Indexed among people from D homes vs. all adults from all socio-classes, urban nationwide) (See Table 3)

Perhaps because they are more cautious in choosing their brands, lest they waste their money, the mass market gives weight to the opinion of influencers. Since they may not have the resources to consult experts, they are also more open to listening to media-based expert opinion.

It only takes a sticky idea in the right channel to get word-of-mouth going for a brand. A combination of different media can work efficiently to generate talk, thus they have to be chosen to consider category fit and relevance to the target consumer.

For more information about word of mouth or the UM MEDIA IN MINDTM, contact Universal Consulting at 757-2333, or e-mail [maita.consult@ap.universalinc.com](mailto:maita.consult@ap.universalinc.com) or [arlene.aquino@ap.universalinc.com](mailto:arlene.aquino@ap.universalinc.com)

By Bernard U. Cobravias  
and Jose A. Osana  
SGV & Co.

**W**ITH THE BROUHA- ha of the recent corporate tax reform measures nearly dying down, government has now set its sights on restructuring the tax closest to our paychecks and personal businesses—the income tax on individuals.

Will the new individual tax measures spell relief for us? Or will it add to the common folks' tax burdens?

#### Not relieving salaried individuals

A recently passed House Bill seeks to reform the taxation of individuals by increasing the highest tax rate from the current 32 percent to 35 percent while it exempts from income tax the minimum wage workers or those earning P55,000 per year or less.

Compensating for the increase in the top rate, the Bill increases by nearly a third the current personal and additional exemptions currently enjoyed by salaried individuals. Under the Bill, single individuals who currently enjoy only P20,000 in annual personal exemptions, will be able to claim P30,000. The personal exemption of heads of the family is increased from P25,000 to P37,500 while married individuals will be able to deduct P48,000 instead of the current P32,000. An additional exemption of P12,000 for each dependent is also allowed. This is an increase from the current P8,000.

Meanwhile the exemption of marginal income tax earners departs from the current table which begins to charge 5 percent tax on a measly P10,000 per year salary. Those between the bottom and top earners will be subject to graduated rates ranging 25 percent to 33 percent.

The Department of Finance estimates that under this plan, the government may lose up to almost P600 million in annual revenues from salaried individuals. Observers say, however, that the tax break is well-earned or even an even bigger one, well-deserved by salaried individuals. A study by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) reveals that compensation income earners have been contributing over 80 percent of the tax revenue from individuals. Compensation earners were said to average a mere 7 percent tax leakage over the last few years since the taxes are withheld even before salaries

are paid.

The Senate version takes the flat tax route for individuals. This means that whether one is at the top rung of the income ladder or a struggling employee, a 35 percent tax is imposed. The Senate tries to make up for this seeming harshness with higher personal exemptions of up to P200,000 annually.

#### The scheme called SNITS

Congress is also serious about going after the so-called hard-to-tax sector, the professionals and the self-employed.

Under the current system, self-employed individuals and professionals are taxed in the same way as corporations. They are taxed on net income, meaning that they are given a full menu of expenses which they may claim as deductions. But because of the liberality of the current system, the NTRC study cited above estimated that government is losing a huge 70 percent tax leakage, or forgone revenues of up to P26.7 billion from professionals and self-employed individuals.

To contain the leakage, the House of Representatives wants to reintroduce the "Simplified Net Income Tax Scheme" or SNITS. The SNITS is a system by which individuals engaged in business or those practicing their professions are allowed to deduct only the direct costs of their businesses. These include sole proprietorships like manufacturers, traders, market vendors, owners of eateries, farmers and service shops. Professionals include lawyers, dentists, CPAs, architects, actors, among others who do not earn regular monthly salaries.

Rep. Jessie Lapus, the principal sponsor of the revival of the SNITS explained that the SNITS will limit the manipulation of allowable deductions by the self-employed and the professionals by limiting the deductions to the direct costs of business as defined by the Bill.

We had a brief flirtation with the SNITS between 1992 and 1997 under Republic Act 7496 or the old SNITS law. The old law provided for a shortened list of allowable deductions that includes materials and supplies, salaries, utilities, rentals, depreciation, interest and certain donations. The old SNITS set a maximum deduction of 40 percent of the business or the professional's gross receipts.

The new SNITS has the same basic features as the old. It adopts the list of deductibles under the old SNITS law and expands the list to also include: sales discounts, sales returns allowances, freight handling and trucking, insurance expense, professional fees, government contributions, taxes and li-

censes. The new proposed SNITS law also allows the optional standard deduction of 40 percent of the individual's gross revenues in lieu of the itemized deductions in the list.

The SNITS is expected to expand the tax base and enhance government revenues.

#### New face of old issues

The effectiveness of any tax reform agenda is often judged by its responsiveness to the country's fiscal needs, its efficiency, and its equity.

As to salaried individuals, the current system of withholding tax on compensation has already been tested to effectively reduce tax leakage. While the system is efficient, the raising of the top rate to 35 percent will likely attract criticism. From its inception, the Senate version has also raised concern from the middle income earners who are said to be the hardest hit by the flat tax scheme.

In both of these proposals, the basis of the tax will still be gross income, reduced only by the exemptions and the so-called de minimis benefits like rice allowances and the like. Issues of equity have always been raised by salaried workers who are taxed on gross income at a very high rate, but are allowed only to deduct these predetermined and limited exemptions and benefits of small value. Compensation income earners have long decried their plight for being made to carry a heavier, not to mention less foot-proof, tax burden.

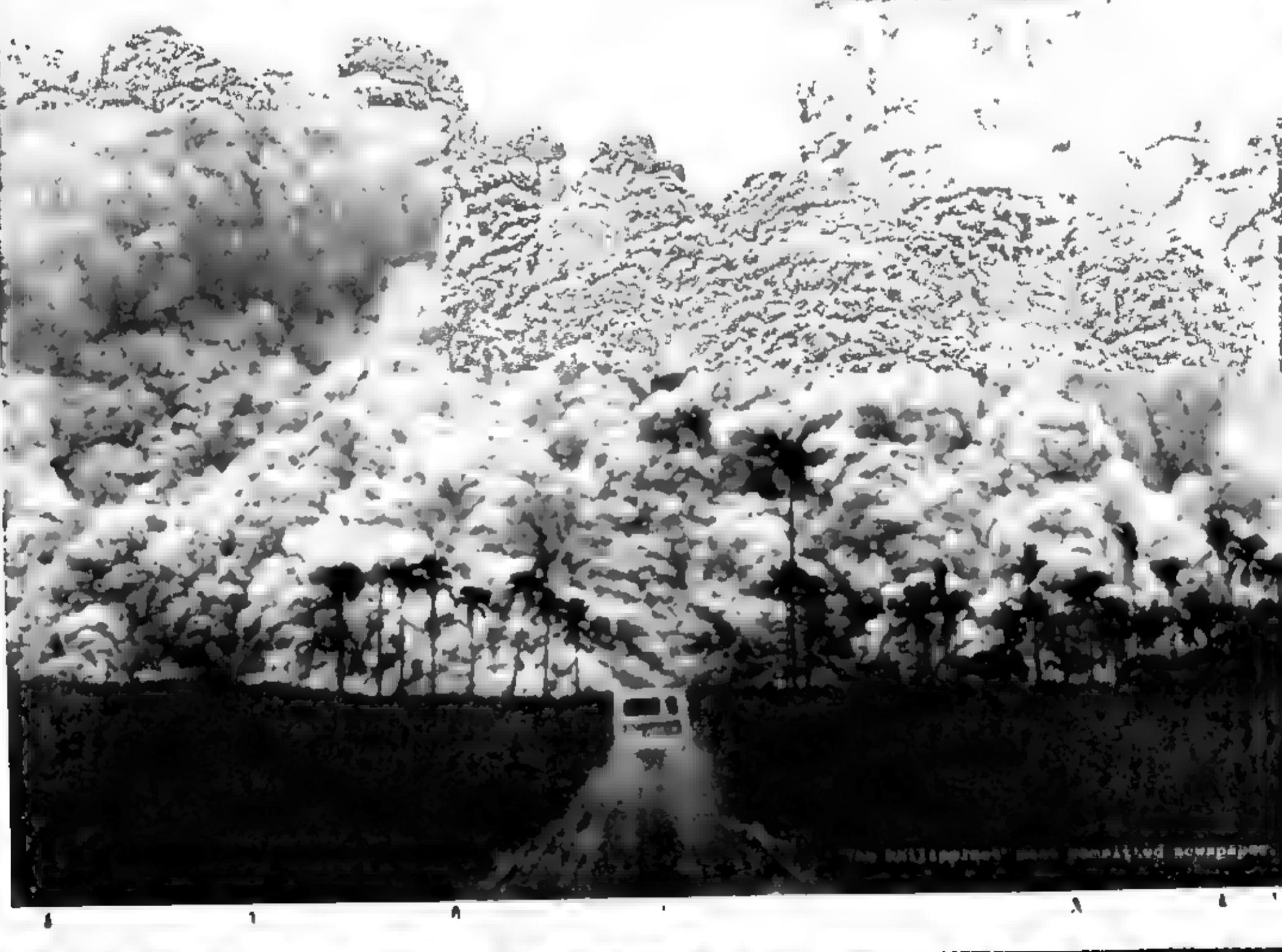
On the other hand, the reintroduction of the SNITS may also revive the old bone of contention against it. Individual businessmen and professionals have been at odds with the BIR in the past in their claim for deductions for other direct costs of business which are not included in the enumeration.

The BIR's stand is that such costs of doing business as repairs and maintenance, advertising, publicity, membership dues, and representation allowances, are not allowable since these expenses do not appear in the enumeration of direct costs under the law. Taxpayers argue that the SNITS law provides only a list of examples of allowable deductible direct costs. Repairs, maintenance, and such other expenses are, after all, part and parcel of doing business. Thus, the policy behind the distinction is subject to question.

These issues must be thought out well and settled in Congress before the new scheme is passed into law. Otherwise, a new wave of objections may very well be expected from the already tax-weary populace.

#### TAX-FILES

SGS PHILIPPINES Inc., the Philippine affiliate of the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS), launched its new Makati-based Central Laboratory recently. SGS Managing Director Rosario Cayucos-Bradbury (3rd from left) with the Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines, Peter Sutter (5th from left) assist Bureau of Product Standards Assistant Director Shirley Bocor in opening the laboratory. Others in photo are (from left): Secretary Richard Saludo and Deputy Customs Commissioner Cebu Tempio.



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53rd International Advertising Festival

## At Cannes, great ideas can come from anywhere

The 53rd Cannes Advertising Festival, held June 18 to 24th, is seen by the world's ad community as the "Oscars" of advertising. And this year it saw the top winners coming from a diversity of countries, no matter the size. Previously the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil and Europe typically dominated the awards. For example the Titanium Grand Prix, the biggest prize of the festival, was won by a small Japanese design group, Design Barcode — for doing a world's first. The young Japanese graphic designers took the mundane bar code into a design opportunity in product packaging.

Terry Savage, the Festival's executive chair, said, "the ethos of this year's Festival is encapsulated in our marketing campaign 'Where do the Best Ideas Come From?' It is clear that today the best ideas can come from anywhere."

Cannes, where over 24,000 pieces of the best advertising from 81 countries compete, has become more of a level playing field, much like the Fifa World Cup whose five games added to the excitement at Cannes. Any country, any ad agency, local or multinational had a fair chance of winning as long as they played by the rules. At Cannes, it means playing for world standards of advertising excellence.

A surprised Malaysia emerged as Asia's top media winner with five Golds, three Silvers and three Bronze Lions. Followed by India, Thailand, Japan, and Singapore who all won Cannes Gold Lions. The Philippines and China won three Bronze Lions each. An overall good year for Asia.

### Philippines Cannes winners

The triple Cannes Bronze Lions win for the Philippines is our biggest haul ever at the world's most prestigious advertising show. BBDO Guerrero Ortega won for the country two Bronze Lions for the agency's regional client, FedEx, for the "The Delivery" radio commercial, and in outdoor for the poster campaign for Childhope Asia which showed what Filipino street children miss out on at Christmas. Ogilvy & Mather Philippines won a Bronze for the Philippine Daily Inquirer "Volcanic Ash" poster which shows a dramatic shot of the newspaper's delivery van heading

straight into the billowing ash of the erupting Mount Pinatubo.

Eight Philippine advertising agencies made an impressive 20 Cannes shortlists, our highest ever, across the awards categories of Film, Print, Outdoor, Radio, Media, Sales Promotions and Direct Marketing. This out of the 170 Philippine entries from over ten ad agencies.

BBDO Guerrero Ortega scored 9 out of the 20 Philippine Cannes finalists. Ogilvy & Mather had four, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno with two, and DM9JaymeSyfu, JWT, 141 Worldwide, Mediacon, and Y&R, all having one each. The work came for brands like Coca-Cola, FedEx, Tower Records, The Economist, Unilever Pond's, Pizza Hut, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Caramba Hot Sauce, Sara Lee Ambi Pur, Comic Quest Bookstore and public service campaigns for Greenpeace, Childhope Asia, ABC 5 and Concordia Children Services.

Last year saw our first Cannes Lions winner in advertising for the Consuelo Foundation/Unicef "Bunso" TV commercial by BBDO Guerrero Ortega. In 2003, BCD Pinpoint won the Bronze Lion in the Direct Marketing category for an animal shelter fund-raising campaign titled "Dogs por Dogs".

The country's performance is definitely a step up and as Alex Syfu, managing partner and COO of DM9 Jayme Syfu, put it, "Cannes was a valuable, engaging experience, you come out inspired, challenged and more hopeful that the Philippines will soon be on the stage receiving a Gold Lion. For DM9, Cannes was truly memorable considering we became a fi-

nalist with less than a year in the business, congratulations to my team and the rest of team Philippines! Thanks to the Philippine Daily Inquirer for its support!"

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, represented by vice president for advertising, Pepito R. Olarte, is the country's Cannes Festival representative. Inquirer has given valuable support for the Philippine team at Cannes. Olarte elated, "It's another great Cannes experience capped by a fantastic performance by team Philippines. Get that Gold Lion next year!"

Our sole juror in Cannes for the Radio Lions, David Guerrero, chair and chief creative officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega, shares that "the judging was tough but conducted in good spirit. Two rounds of anonymous electronic voting and numerous procedural safeguards ensure the best work gets seen, voted on and discussed. It was a real privilege to be asked to join the jury. And it's great that this year the Philippines had the most delegates entries ever — and our first ever winners in radio and outdoor. After 53 years of Cannes, we're truly joining the world's advertising community in sharing and celebrating the best ideas on the planet."

The Leo Burnett duo, Cecilia Enriquez and John Paul Cuisin, held the Philippine flag at the Cannes Lions Young Creative Cyber Competition and worked on a live brief from the Red Cross to publicize its effort to unite families torn apart by war. Teams from Brazil and Poland won the Print and Cyber Young Lions, respectively. The teams for the Young Creatives on the Film Competition made their commercials exclusively on Nokia cell phones.



A WORLD'S first by Design Barcode of Japan wins Cannes' biggest award, the Titanium Grand Prix.



CHILDHOPE Asia's poster campaign wins the Cannes Bronze Lion for BBDO Guerrero Ortega.



THE GUINNESS Beer TV commercial that shows the Theory of Evolution on reverse wins the Film Grand Prix.

never-been-done-before" work on bar codes. The celebrated Film Grand Prix went to Guinness Beer for their "Noctilove" TV commercial by Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in London. The 60-second spot shows man's evolution running in reverse from the ultimate drink of a pint of Guinness walking backwards to become a caveman, ape, amphibian and finally a tiny creature drinking murky water in a muddy pond. And caps it with the campaign line, "Good things come to those who wait". Paul Brazier, creative director of the Guinness commercial, said "it took us 18 months from start to finish to work on the commercial, with a production budget of over 1.2 million pounds." Well worth it!

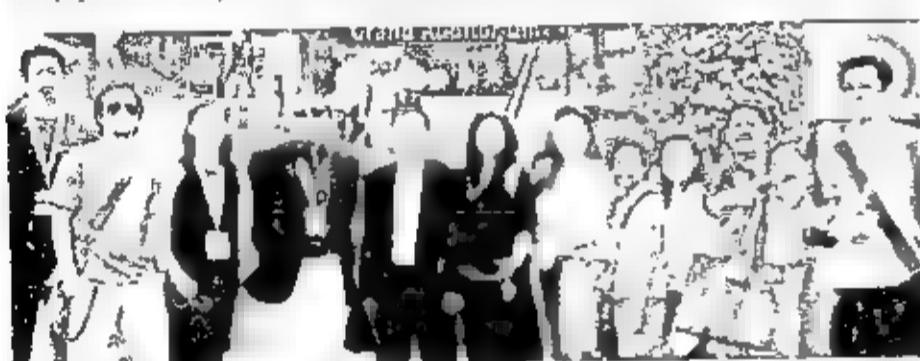
Log on to [www.canneslions.com](http://www.canneslions.com) to view the Cannes Lions winners.

## Cannes—not just about ads

The week-long seminars at Cannes drew in throngs of delegates from the seducing croissants beach just steps outside the Palais des Festivals, into the auditoriums. Helped by an exciting list of speakers and panelists from the ad world, plus the presence of actor Martin Sheen and Michael Patrick King, executive producer of "Sex & the City" at the JWT "Makers of Pop Culture" seminar; actor John Cleese from "Monty Python"; James Bond and Harry Potter at the Hermann Voss seminar; and the popular Saatchi & Saatchi's New Directors Showcase was jam-packed filling two large auditoriums. A ready list of important things to take in about the communications business, about building brands amidst the fragmented media channels, about technology's role in communication, integration, creativity in targeting our consumers and more.

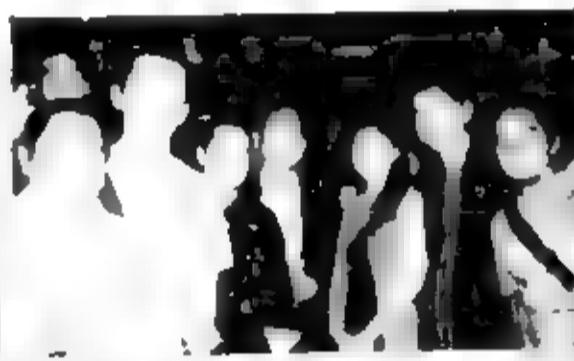
Whether it be the information overload at the seminars and workshops, or the celebration of the best ideas in the world, or the less serious but equally important parties, sunbathing on the beach, or watching the live World Cup Football matches at hotel bars, Cannes leaves attendees inspired, hung-over and wishing they could take all of it home with them.

Mila Marquez, vice president/SBU head director, Lowe Philippines, a first-timer at Cannes, described her experience here as "inspiring and thought-provoking. We should be able to communicate our local partners and colleagues with the creative spirit fostered here."



IN FRONT OF PALAIS DE FESTIVAL

From left are Noel Bermejo, Lowe Lintas; Joel Limchoc, BBDO Philippines; Merle Jayme, DM9 Jayme Syfu; Alex Syfu, DM9 Jayme Syfu; Pepito R. Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Susan Dimacali, DDB Philippines; Carmina Cruz, Evangeline Saucy, Olive Crisostomo and Nap Carrao of Starcom, Milagros Marquez, Lowe Lintas and Raoul Panes, BBDO Philippines.



ANTONIO Sarmiento, Proximity Philippines; Raoul Panes, BBDO Philippines; Jake Tesoro, TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno; Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer; Raoul Panes, David Ferrer and David Ferrer, JWT Philippines; and Joel Limchoc, BBDO Philippines.



PRESS Grand Prix Winner



OFF to attend the party at the Carlton beachfront is Vanessa Escobar and Jake Tesoro of TBWA SMP.



AT THE CLOSING gala party at Carlton Beach (from left), are David Guerrero, Radio Jury, BBDO Philippines; Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer; Guillaume van der Stighelen, Radio Jury president, and Angel Guerrero.



HAVING fun, Leo Burnett's young creatives team of Cey Enriquez and JP Cuisin with Tommy the Clown, an offshoot of Saatchi & Saatchi's showcase.

## Ogilvy & Mather bags 3 Global Awards

Receives Cannes Bronze Lion & Effies for great work that works



CANNES Film Grand Prix winner for Guinness Beer, Paul Brazier, creative director of Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, London

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WAITING to attend the Cannes sessions, Jake Tesoro of TBWA SMP; Alex Syfu of DM9 Jayme Syfu and Merle Jayme of DM9 Jayme Syfu.

**LEADING MULTINATIONAL** agency Ogilvy & Mather is on a roll with the awards it has been receiving recently. The agency's poster titled "Volcanic Ash" for Philippine Daily Inquirer bagged a Bronze Lion and three finalists in the 53rd Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, followed by Gillette Vector First Five's Bronze Award and Dove Campaign for Real Beauty's commendation in the Asian Marketing Effectiveness Award.

The event concept — which emanated from an idea of Coca-Cola's director for pub-

"We always aim to produce great work that works — although we've been quiet for awhile, the recognition we've been receiving on a global level is proof positive that we're back with a vengeance," said Tina Coscolluela, Ogilvy & Mather group managing director. "O&M is a 360 Degree Brand Stewardship agency, and we espouse a comprehensive communications plan for our clients — from advertising to PR, customer relationship management (CRM) and interactive, we focus on what forms of communication will best reach our client's target market, and we make effective use of these disciplines," Coscol-

la added.

"*Volcanic Ash*"

Titled Volcanic Ash, the poster produced for the Philippine Daily Inquirer garnered the uncharted Cannes Bronze Lion Award for the Publications & Media category that recognizes the "use of media, its application and relevance to its target audience."

The ad's sole image, which was the publication's vehicle going towards Mt. Pinatubo up in smoke, epitomized the publication's commitment to pursuing and investigating the latest news and crises. The creative team

was led by executive creative director Gavin Simpson, currently the country's leading creative, and also included Almir Langkay, Manly del Rosario, Sarah Ko and Galy Sambrano.

2006 marks the 53rd International Advertising Festival that holds the Cannes Lions. It's the only "annual gathering of advertising, creative, direct marketing interactive, film, radio, media sales promotion, and marketing communiqué" on a global level.

Ogilvy & Mather holds offices at the 15th & floor, Philamlife Tower, Pasay de Roxas, Makati City (885-0001).

associate creative director Myra Carabeo, art director Jorge Matz, and writers Kina Jau-regal and Macky Minn.

The campaign logistics were left in the capable hands of 141 Worldwide business directors Paul Perez and Arvin Sanchez, account managers Agnes Tejada and Gina Pastor, print producer Peachy Baspina and project manager Christine Yuson, and all under the uncompromising guidance of Coca-Cola's community relations manager Cindy Kim.



WAITING to attend the Cannes sessions, Jake Tesoro of TBWA SMP; Alex Syfu of DM9 Jayme Syfu and Merle Jayme of DM9 Jayme Syfu.

PHILIPPINES jury rep in this year's Cannes Radio Lions, David Guerrero, chair and chief creative officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

# BUSINESS Friday

## Handling your credit cards

By Giselle Navarro  
Contributor

"I HAVE 12 CREDIT CARDS and have outstanding balances on each. I don't think I can pay this month. What do I do?"

While this credit card user may be on the extreme side, her case highlights how easy it is today to decorate your wallet with many credit cards—then just as easily get into trouble. The ease of getting one is due to all the credit card companies engaging in stiff competition, resulting in approvals at income of as low as P10,000 a month.

Overall, Filipinos have managed their cards in stride, with 80 percent of total credit card debts remaining current. The overdue balance of P1.4 billion however is a cause for concern, because if we divide that amount into the average individual's overdue balance, we realize hundreds of thousands of credit card holders are in trouble. As anyone knows, a financial problem is never a financial problem alone—the crisis spills over into all other aspects of a debtor's life. Relationships falter as couples fight over money, anxiety, self-doubt and depression. At work and social skills suffer, just to mention a few. Yet responsible credit card handling doesn't demand that much effort.

One, at the most, two credit cards will be enough to keep you meet the occasional emergency while keeping your total annual fee—which averages P2,000 across the industry—low. Our real-life example above is set back P24,000 a year on annual fees—even before making a single purchase. And with just one or two cards, their combined credit limit provides a manageable ceiling on how far you can get in debt.

With many cards of individual credit limits, you invite trouble at a level well beyond your personal debt limit.

When shopping, only charge items you have budgeted your cash for if you can't pay for the items in cash, then you probably can't afford them yet. You complain about high price. Then you pay them, and with interest? Before you charge an item, determine where the payment will come from. If you can't find a concrete answer, think twice about the purchase. Maintaining a lifestyle you can't afford will always end in grief.

Be prompt with payments and ideally, pay in full. You maintain a clean slate and avoid the temptation of using the available cash for something else.

In fact, as most ATM accounts allow credit card payments, settle your charged purchase the next day. That's peace of mind in less than five minutes.

Keep in mind these few points and you can look forward to healthy and peaceful financial well-being. The caller we were discussing however is already in trouble, and must quickly work out how to adjust her finances to free up a debt repayment budget. Then she has to go to the credit card companies—immediately—and negotiate a mutually acceptable repayment plan. She will definitely have to make serious cutbacks on just about everything she spends for, and may even have to sell some assets to settle her debts—all of which, sadly, could have been avoided in the first place.

(The author is the designer and developer of the personal finance program "All You Need to Manage Your Money Today.")

## Putting a positive spin to loans

By Margie Quimpo-Espina

**W**HEN YOU THINK of ads enticing people to borrow, what visuals do you see?

Usually it is a man or a woman with knitted brows, a worried look on their faces and in total, depicting a situation no one wants to be in.

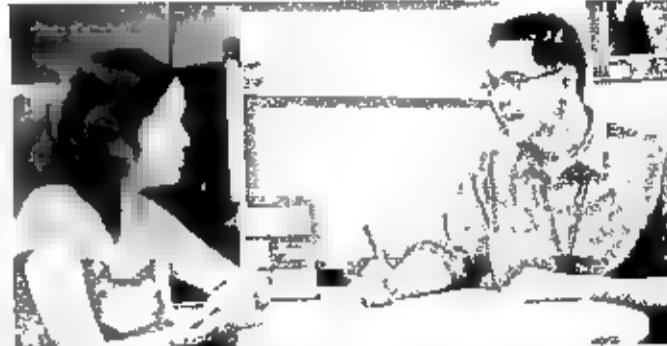
Citifinancial Corp., the personal loan arm of the Citigroup, is tackling a new strategy to entice people to borrow.

Citifinancial marketing director Ma. Amor T. Balagtas and Citibank, N.A. assistant vice president for public relations and communications Aneth Ng-Lum say they are putting a positive spin to credit.

Recently launched ads show a couple with the woman about to give birth, a girl with a new mobile phone, a lady sunbathing in Boracay.

"Our goal is personal loans for the improvement of lives," says Lum.

The message is you don't have to miss out on milestones because you do not have money. You can always borrow.



CITIFINANCIAL officer doing face to face interview with borrower.

As part of the worldwide acquisitions and mergers which Citibank went through several years ago, creating the Citigroup, the personal loan arm was created.

The goal is to make Citifinancial a "neighborhood lending company," according to Balagtas, with its current 11 branches located in mostly residential areas. Balagtas says plans are afoot to open six more branches this year, and 10 next year—all near subdivisions.

Citifinancial further marks the Citigroup's continuing expansion into a wider market. In the past,



BALAGTAS

Citibank, the flagship of the group was known more as a rich man's bank. Over the past years, it adapted to the changing market and targeted the middle-income group with an aggressive credit card campaign.

Citifinancial taps a lower market segment by offering loans of P15,000 to P400,000 payable in 18 to 36 months.

The target market for Citifinancial are working people and small entrepreneurs—usually silver credit card holders.

A good credit card record is almost a guarantee that one will get a loan approval.

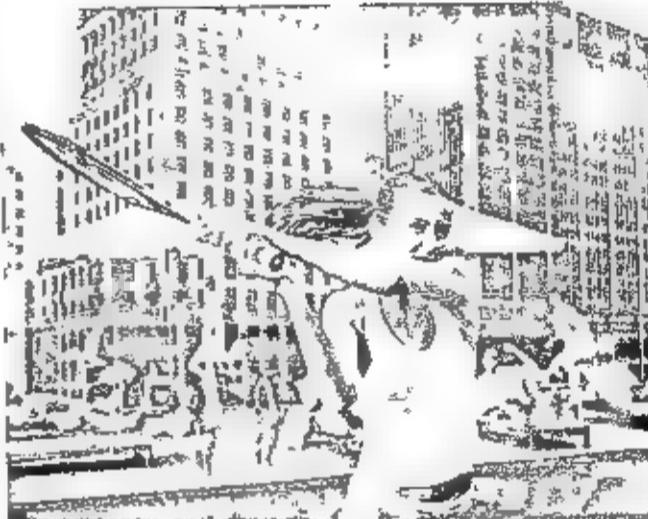
Balagtas says Citifinancial makes it a point to meet its customers face to face. They do an analysis of the borrower's financial state with the client to help arrive at a loan amount that he can pay within his financial state.

Since the target borrowers are working people, Balagtas says Citifinancial offices close beyond 6:30 p.m.

Initial offerings of Citifinancial are personal loans and appliance loans but they are already looking at car and housing loans.

## Phone firm unveils global marketing campaign

**S**ONY ERICSSON kicked off its global marketing campaign for the new Cyber-shot™ phone with the launch of "Never Miss a Shot," an action-packed TV commercial starring top female tennis players Ana Ivanovic and Daniela Hantuchova. The commercial has gone "live" online at [www.nevermissashot.com](http://www.nevermissashot.com) and will be supported by an integrated global press and print campaign, point-of-sale, digital and viral market-



DANIELA Hantuchova is featured in the new Cyber-shot ad.

ing activities.

"Never Miss a Shot" focuses on a tennis match across the rooftops and skyscrapers between Ana and Daniela.

The game begins when a sunbathing Daniela hears a tennis ball being hit by Ana on an adjacent rooftop. She immediately leaps up from her sun bed, grabs her racket and runs to return the ball. The match begins and a dramatic rally unfolds. The city's "rooft-scape" becomes the girls' tennis court. A man in a nearby office block talking on his Sony Ericsson Cyber-shot™ phone looks out of the window to see Daniela leaping down from the building above. He captures a dramatic image with one click of his phone. The advanced Cyber-shot™ camera module in the phone lets him get the perfect picture and his colleague cannot believe he has missed out on such an amazing photo opportunity.

"Never Miss a Shot" will be broadcast in 60-, 30-, 20-, 15- and 10-second ad bursts. The commercial, breaking on TV first in Hong Kong, will then roll out worldwide over the next three months.

"The freedom to be totally mobile, constantly in-touch and be able to take and share quality pictures anytime, anywhere is what the new Sony Ericsson Cyber-shot™ phone is all about," according to Dee Dutta, corporate vice president and head of marketing for Sony Ericsson.

Sony Ericsson's BestPic™ technology offers nine 3.2 megapixel pictures with one click of the shutter. The camera takes four pictures before and four after the captured image, with all nine captured images displayed as icons on screen so users can scroll through the images and save the best one.

[www.nevermissashot.com](http://www.nevermissashot.com) also offers consumers a variety of interactive options including a specially designed "Ping" tennis game where players can choose to be Ana or Daniela and play their own rooftop tennis match.



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# LIFESTYLE

## From its lab to new looks!

The Body Shop relaunched its entire makeup line by conjuring new shades and combinations



AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 PM, AT THE Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong, The Body Shop wowed the international press with the re-launch of its entire makeup line.

Not only does the makeup line have this new classy packaging that can compete with other prestigious brands, it has also retained its reasonable price tag, maintained its high quality in terms of performance and texture, and got celebrity makeup artist Chase Aston to come up with five new looks that everyone could wear.

As soon as the models came out, I knew what the angle of this column would be—the five new makeup looks for every occasion, complete with the actual product shades the models used. Please note that foundation and concealer shades are not specified because it is important for you to have your personal match for these products.

9-to-5. Without having to really think about it, I already know that this look would be the most popular choice for the Philippine market due to our love for the nude/natural appearance. This is the most basic face designed for the office, where one has to look polished and professional without being overtly done up.

On model: All in One face base, P1,195; Lightening Touch concealer, P795; Lip and Cheek Stain 01: Rose Pink, P695; Cream Eye Colour 02: Dusk Pink, P595; Eye Colour 37 Pink Champagne and 13 Vanilla Cream, P550 each; Brow and Lash gel, P550; Eye Definer 02 Rich Brown, P450; Define and Lengthen Mascara 02 Brown, P695; Liquid Lip Colour 04 Blush Pink, P650.

Hot date. Smoky and seductive! This would have to be the second most popular look in the Philippines. After all, this is the look we invariably adapt for evenings—more defined eye and added shimmer for cheeks and lips.

On model: Moisture Foundation, Lightening Touch; Shimmer Waves 02: Blush, P1,195; Eye Colours in 08 Golden Paprika, 12 Celico, 39 Soft Black, 32 Chocolate, at P550 each; Liquid Eyeliner 01 Black, P650; Super Volume Mascara 01 Black, P695; Sheer Lip Shine 01 Sheer Pink, P695; High Shine Lip treatment 01 Pink Cream, P595.

Red carpet. Dramatic and mysterious, this look is for the celebrity-obsessed out there like me. Chase actually used this look on his Hollywood clientele, among them Cameron Diaz, Heidi Klum, Britney Spears and Teri Hatcher. I personally feel that Asian women are the natural canvas for this style, as our dark hair and eyes can set off smoky eyes and red lips effortlessly. This look actually rekindled my dormant love for red lipstick, so expect to see me wearing TBS' Lip Colour 22 Garnet (P650) from September onwards.

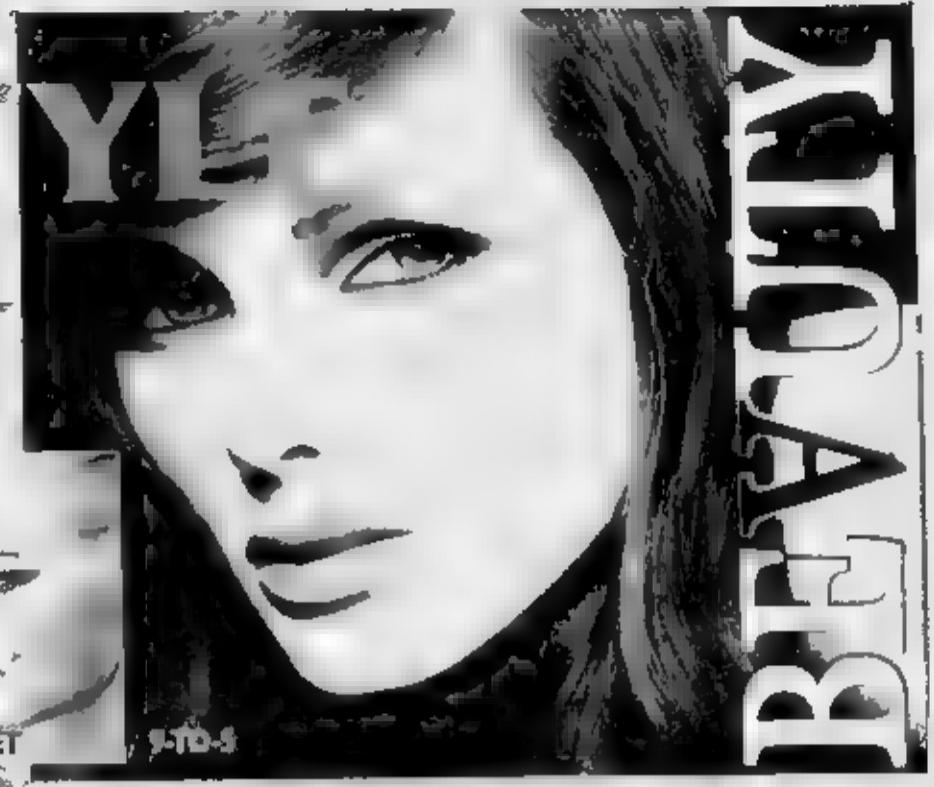
TBS Garnet is the perfect rich deep red for any skin tone. It has the perfect blend of blue and brown undertones for that complementary drama. No pink or orange taint here.

On model: Ultra Smooth foundation, P1,195; Ultra Smooth Liquid Concealer, P695; Bronzing Powder 01, P995; Shimmer Waves 01 Bronze; Cream Eye Colour 05 Mink and 01 Starry Silver; Eye Colour 20 Slate, P550; Liquid Eyeliner 01 Black; Super Volume Mascara; Brow and Liner Kit, P895; Lip Colour 22 Garnet.

FIVE: CI

What's hot for Fall!  
SMOKY eyes

Rocha



Sabi ni nanay

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Pero pag nag-download ka meron."



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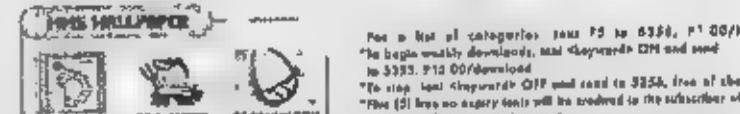
### BOASTONES

TITLE	ARTIST	MONO	POLY
Alipio	Shawrock	C2 alipio	C3 alipio
Beauty and Madness	Fra Lippe Hipp	C1 beauty	C2 beauty
Parade bo	Soopdah	E1 paradebo	E2 paradebo
Nordio	Kapulau	E2 nordio	E5 nordio
	Jed Madela	D1 jedmela	D2 jedmela
Peasy Abo (Foxy Ma Brotha)	Qyonce and Jezmer	A2 peasyabo	A5 peasyabo
The Orderbreaker	Parolaya of Edger	A2 orderbreaker	A5 orderbreaker
High	Barbie Almalib	D1 high	D2 high
When I See You Smile	Kris Lawrence	C3 smile	C4 smile
Psym Yu (Kaliugan)	Elan Clay & NYAP	E1 psymyu	E4 psymyu
My Girl	Sara Milby	A3 mygirl	A6 mygirl
Mojito	Kitsie Nodal	D1 mojito	D2 mojito

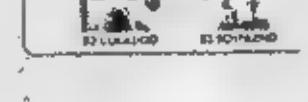
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ALL PHOTOS FROM WWW.WWSTYLE.COM

## Falling in love with Fall

There is such a wide variety of looks this season that there's definitely one that would be perfect for any girl.

**EXCITING!** I LOVE THE 2006 FALL BEAUTY trends. Why? Because they are so easy to do and very low-maintenance.



Ria Francisco-Prieto

Seriously, I don't think anyone even has to buy anything new to follow the trends, unless some products need to be replenished. Good bye to the hair iron that was the fastest way to damage hair. Nor that I was any good at it, anyway, since I was so afraid of burning my ear.

There is such a wide variety of looks this season that there's definitely one that would be perfect for any girl. I personally pick the eyeliner! I've always loved the drama it brings, and now it's the "in" look to have. Lucky me!

Pick the look you want and get gorgeous!

If there is one trend that will never go out of style, it is having good skin. I wish I had good skin. For some unknown reason, I've developed some bumps all over my face. Though they are small, my face is now rough.

I went to a dermatologist (something I didn't have the need to do before), and she told me my skin was dry, and that I should get a Diamond Peel. A friend of mine says the procedure is good since it will take away all my dead skin cells. Well, that's actually what the derma told me, too. But I guess knowing that I have to have something done, something I've not resorted to before, actually depresses me.

So I figure I will look for an extremely potent moisturizer and use an exfoliating facial wash. I hope it works. Yes, I'm in denial. But I am optimistic. Not that I'm against technology, but I believe some procedures can wait, except anti-aging moisturizers, which aren't a procedure anyway but a product.

To make me feel better, or to put things into perspective, my friend told me about a girl she knew who had a lot of zits, not because she didn't take care of her skin but because of hormonal change. Truth is, I then began to thank God for my skin "issues" and asked Him politely not to allow anything else to go wrong with my skin. In return, I vowed to try and help people who get zits look for a cure.

I asked help from my friend Robby and he told me about Mario Badescu. And since I personally have never used any of its products, I asked for testimonials. As a consumer and a writer who gets lots of products with pictures of models allegedly using the products, I somehow would rather hear it from a client than from the brand's marketing people. I guess it all stems from my being conscious of where my money goes. Money doesn't grow on trees, after all.

Here are four real-life stories from Mario Badescu users.

**Victoria Toda, student**

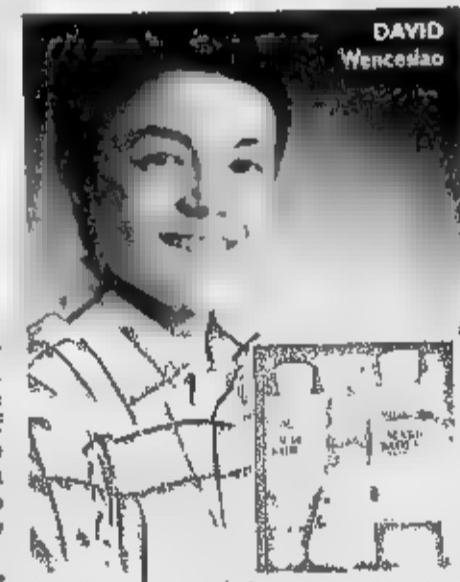


ALL PHOTOS FROM WWW.WWSTYLE.COM

Victoria Toda is a student taking up Massage Therapy in Washington, DC. You may think that studying in America is a vacation, but her life is anything but relaxed. With school pressures and lack of sleep, Victoria's problem has always been acne. Plus, traveling from Washington's cold weather to the Philippines' humid weather wreaks havoc on her face. Which is why Mario Badescu is essential to keeping her face clear.

Victoria swears by Mario Badescu's special Healing Powder, Buttering Lotion and Facial Spray. Just recently, she went home to the Philippines and immediately her face reacted to the change of weather.

"The weird weather changes drove my skin crazy! I could feel the pimples slowly growing and it was humiliating. Luckily I had my special Mario Badescu Buttering Lotion and Special Healing Powder. My face was back to flawless in just two days."



**David Wenceslao, senior marketing manager**

David Wenceslao is a senior marketing manager for his family's outsourcing company. His work involves handling the marketing requirements for several of the family companies, conceptualizing job ads and collaterals for job fairs. Constant deadlines and unavoidable late nights are typical.

"I usually like working late, because that's when it's quiet in the office, and that's when I get to think and let my creative juices flow. My skin's always been oily and acne-prone, so I used to panic before when I get breakouts. It was embarrassing to meet clients. But since using Mario Badescu, my breakouts have been manageable and close to none."

David's daily regimen includes the Botanical Facial Gel, Special Cucumber Lotion and Oil-free Moisturizer.

**Cecile Adriatico, athlete**

Cecile Adriatico, a taekwondo athlete and former member of the Philippine national team, had acne problems on her body. Practicing several hours every day, sweat would clog the pores of her body, especially on her chest and back.

Taekwondo is a tough sport. Being in the national team, we have to practice for hours especially when competitions are coming up. I'd notice before that there were so many

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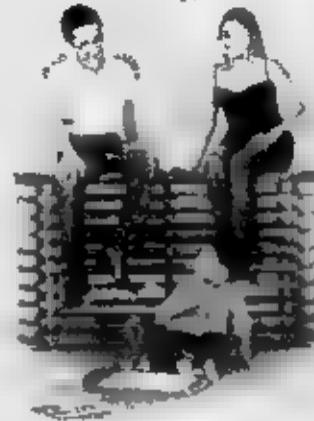
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\*For promotional purposes only.  
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**FILINVEST**

## DIVE IN! Party looks... From page C1

The next two looks are a bit tricky and will encounter resistance from most women.

Jet-set. Glowing, gorgeous, sun-kissed and fabulous, though it may encounter re-

sistance due to the use of blue eye shadow for day and nighttime. Still, it can work on Asian women. The live model was a pretty Oriental girl named Tammy and Chase applied the color on her small eyes using

brushes and his fingers, and she looked fab afterwards.

Do not be so strict in following the colors stated, because it follows that less pale women would need darker blues. The rest of the face should remain sheer and natural as the eyes are the focus. I suggest you mix in browns with the blues.

On model: Sheer Sun Gel, P895; Tinted Glow Enhancer, P795; Lightening Touch; Check Blush 04 Golden Pink, P695; Bronzing Powder; Shimmer Waves 01 Bronze; Cream Eye Colour in Blueberry, P595; Eye Colours 23 Aquamarine and 31 Peacock Green; Waterproof Mascara 01 Black; High Shine Lip in Bronze Beam, P595.

Party, Edgy and daring, but heavier than what Filipinas are used to. This look may overwhelm the cautious and make them

feel over-the-top even if used strictly for evenings.

Our model: All in One face base, Concealer, P595; Lip and Cheek Stain; Brilliance Powder 02 Shimmer Gold, P1,195; Liquid eyeliner Black; Cream Eye Colour in 03 Arctic Ivy; Eye Shimmer 02 Gold, P595; Super Volume Mascara; Hi Shine Lip in Bronze Beam.

Brilliance powder, on the other hand, can be applied everywhere—face, body, and hair.

The makeup will be available by September, but this early, you can look through your personal makeup stash to see what colors you already have. Make a detailed list of what you can add, so you won't go broke buying the whole store when the collection arrives, and end up with wasted doubles.



## Falling... From page C2

whiteheads on my chest and back. It was frustrating. I heard about Mario Badescu's Special Cleansing Lotion 'O' that was designed specifically for chest and back acne, and in less than a week, my back and chest were clear. Badescu 'kicked' my acne away."

Aside from the Special cleansing Lotion "O," Cecile uses the Enzyme Cleansing Gel and Drying Cream.



CECILE Adriatico



WILL Devaughn

**WILL Devaughn, model**

Will Devaughn is a professional model. His success in the modeling industry relies heavily on a clear complexion. In such a competitive career, his face needs to be glowing and flawless always for clients.

Because his schedule is erratic, his skin also gets confused and is prone to breakouts.

"With the makeup they put on me in every shoot, I always make sure I wash my face afterwards. It's hard when I have a photo shoot the next day at 9 a.m. and I've been up the whole night for another shoot. With Mario Badescu, I don't have to worry. I just wash my face with the Glycolic Foaming Cleanser and put Healing Cream afterwards. I can get some snooze time without being worried about a pimple coming up."

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**SAISAKI**  
THE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE  
RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

## Dare to be different looks

From page C1

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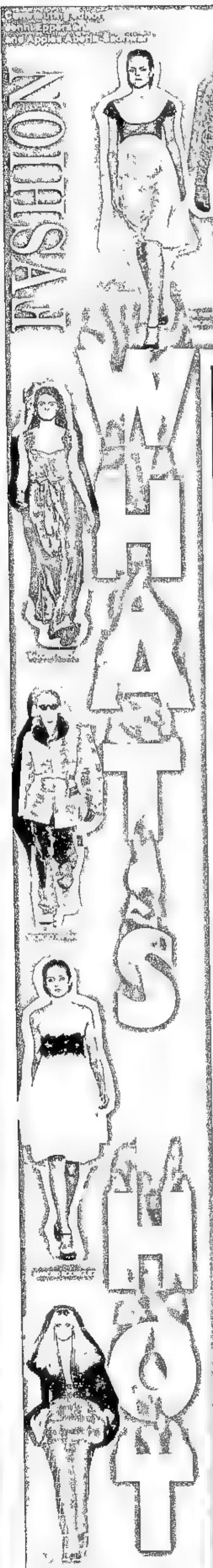
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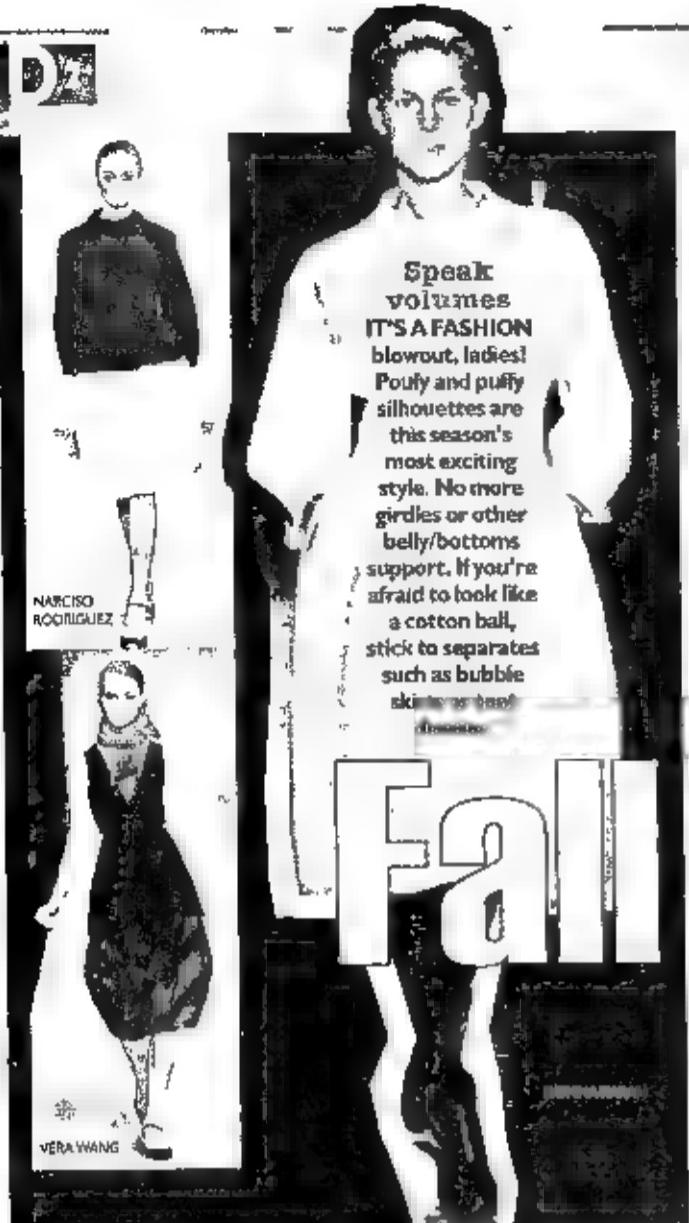
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**Speak volumes**  
IT'S A FASHION blowout, ladies! Puffy and puffy silhouettes are this season's most exciting style. No more girdles or other belly/bottoms support. If you're afraid to look like a cotton ball, stick to separates such as bubble skirts or bustiers.



**Leggings/tights**  
NO LONGER are these babies just for the gym and ballet. They're now acceptable almost anyone of any age, and paired with anything.

PHOTOS: WWW.SHOP.COM



**Clash of the tartans**  
BOTTOM: check. Top: check. Dress: check.

MICHAEL KORS

BALENCIAGA

DOLCE &amp; GABBANA

# Fall

## on the rise

This season means welcoming unorthodox silhouettes, embracing the revival of grunge and piling on layers of clothes to cover your super-fab summer bod

**Y**OU KNOW SUMMER is over when leggings have become the new shorts, wellies have taken over Havaianas and retailers are coming out with every imaginable style of LBDs.

This Fall (or in our case—rainfall) means welcoming unorthodox silhouettes, embracing the revival of grunge and piling on layers of clothes to cover your super-fab summer bod.

Sounds absurd? Well, if you're the type who's locked into one look, a creature of habit or simply not interested in fashion, you can put this paper down and read a book instead. Kiddo!

It's been a long time since fashion has thrown a curve ball where all the basic rules of proportion and silhouette have been thrown out of the window. But that can be quite a liberating experience. Now you can finally eat dessert, and enjoy colors that are somber yet sweater. Yes, monochromatic is magic.

To what do we owe this schizophrenic style? Well, I guess designers are just tired of looking at women dressed like Christmas trees (though it's really one of my favorite looks)—sparkly beaded dresses and gowns as bright as Christmas lights and chandelier earrings as big as Christmas tree ornaments.

Maybe this time, the focus is not on the glitz rich but on the homeless boho. Witness the wonder twins, Mary Kate and Ashley

Olsen, who piled their tiny frames with layers of oversized threads.

Fashion reflects life, so it's said, and with the world more fragile, people hungrier and life tougher, that is inappropriate.

But in life, too, fashion has a role. Its role is to inspire, to express passion and creativity while at the same time creating an industry that many can benefit from—from sales ladies to CEOs.

So in INQUIRER Fashion, while we give readers the season's best and latest styles, we also celebrate fashion that helps men and women feel good and more confident about themselves. Through makeovers, we showcase the works of artists such as photographers, stylists, models, graphic artists and makeup artists, and we scour the metro for buys to give bang for your buck.

For Fall 2006, we've chosen the looks that best suit our weather and styles, and that you can easily play with. Toning down is key this season, but it doesn't mean you should be stuck with recycled plastic and Lyra. Fabrics such as rich velvet, exotic leather and hand-sewn beads and embroidery will add subtle glamour to your attire.

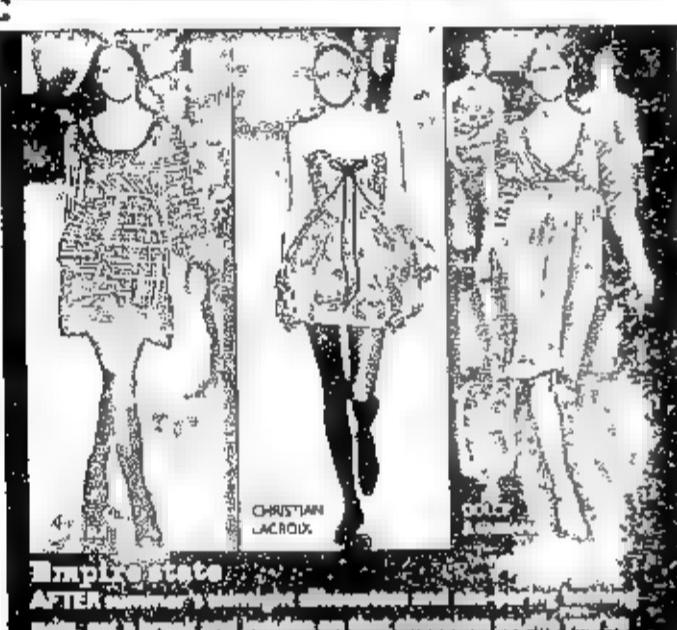
This season, the looks and temperature may have fallen a bit, but awareness is definitely on the rise.

E-mail the author at [jfashion@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:jfashion@inquirer.com.ph)

### Mabuhay!



Jenni Epperson



**MAPLE LEAFS**

AFTER months of being the go-to girls, the girls are back in town this season.

With a bang, and a bang, and a bang, the girls are back in town this season.

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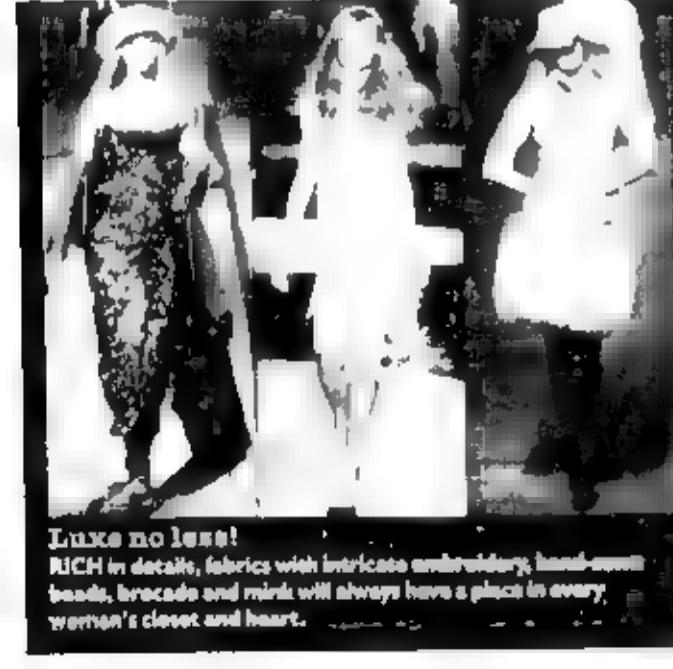
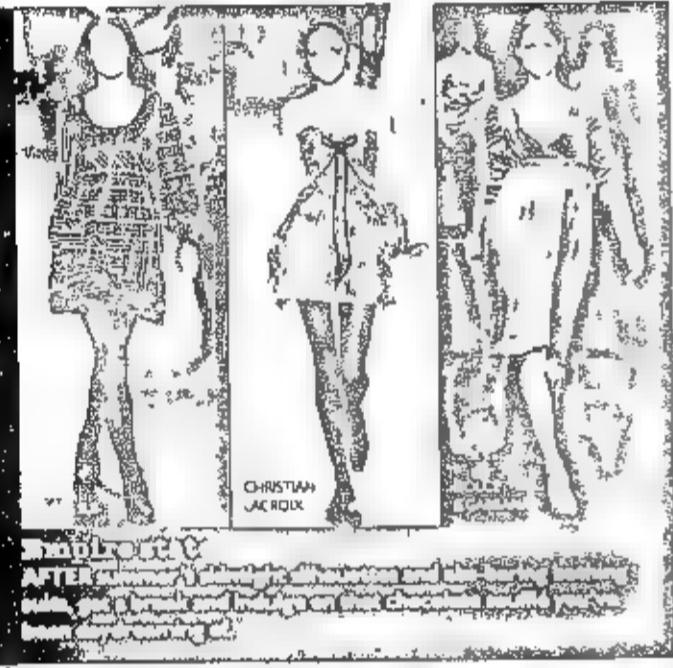
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With a bang,



**Speak volumes**  
IT'S A FASHION blowout, ladies! Poufy and puffy silhouettes are this season's most exciting style. No more girdles or other belly/bottoms support. If you're afraid to look like a cotton ball, stick to separates such as bubble skirts or tent dresses.

# Fall



**Luxe no less!**  
RICH in details, fabrics with intricate embroidery, hand-embroidered beads, brocade and mink will always have a place in every woman's closet and heart.



## Fall on the rise

This season means welcoming unorthodox silhouettes, embracing the revival of grunge and piling on layers of clothes to cover your super-fab summer bod

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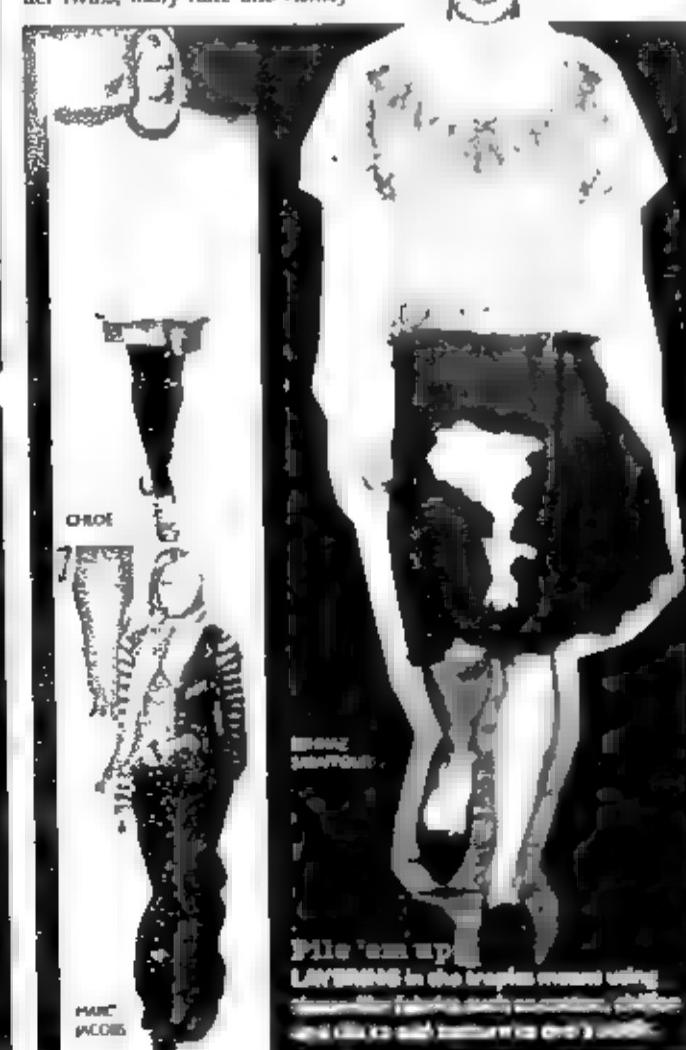
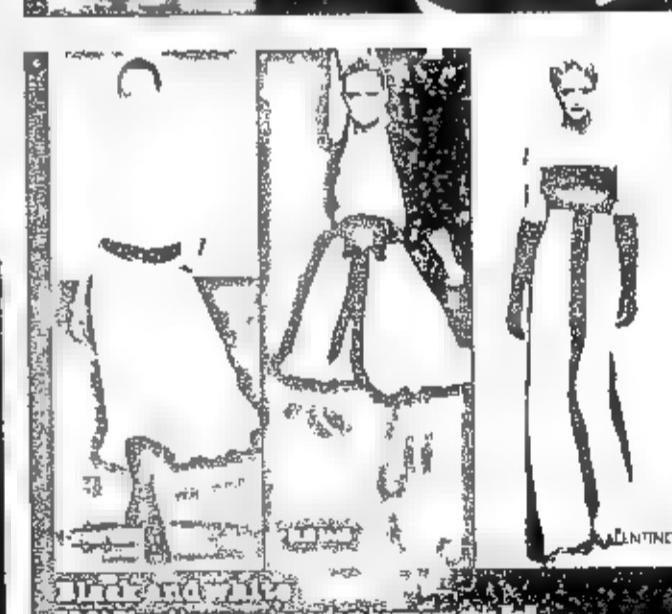
For Fall 2006, we've chosen the looks that best suit our weather and styles, and that you can easily play with. Toning down is key this season, but it doesn't mean you should be stuck with recycled plastic and Lycra. Fabrics such as rich velvet, exotic leather and hand-sewn beads and embroidery will add subtle glamour to your attire.

This season, the looks and temperature may have fallen a bit, but awareness is definitely on the rise.

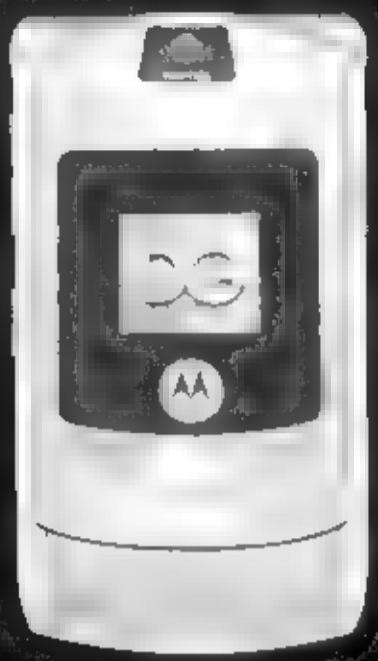
E-mail the author at [jfashion@inquirer.net.ph](mailto:jfashion@inquirer.net.ph)

### Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

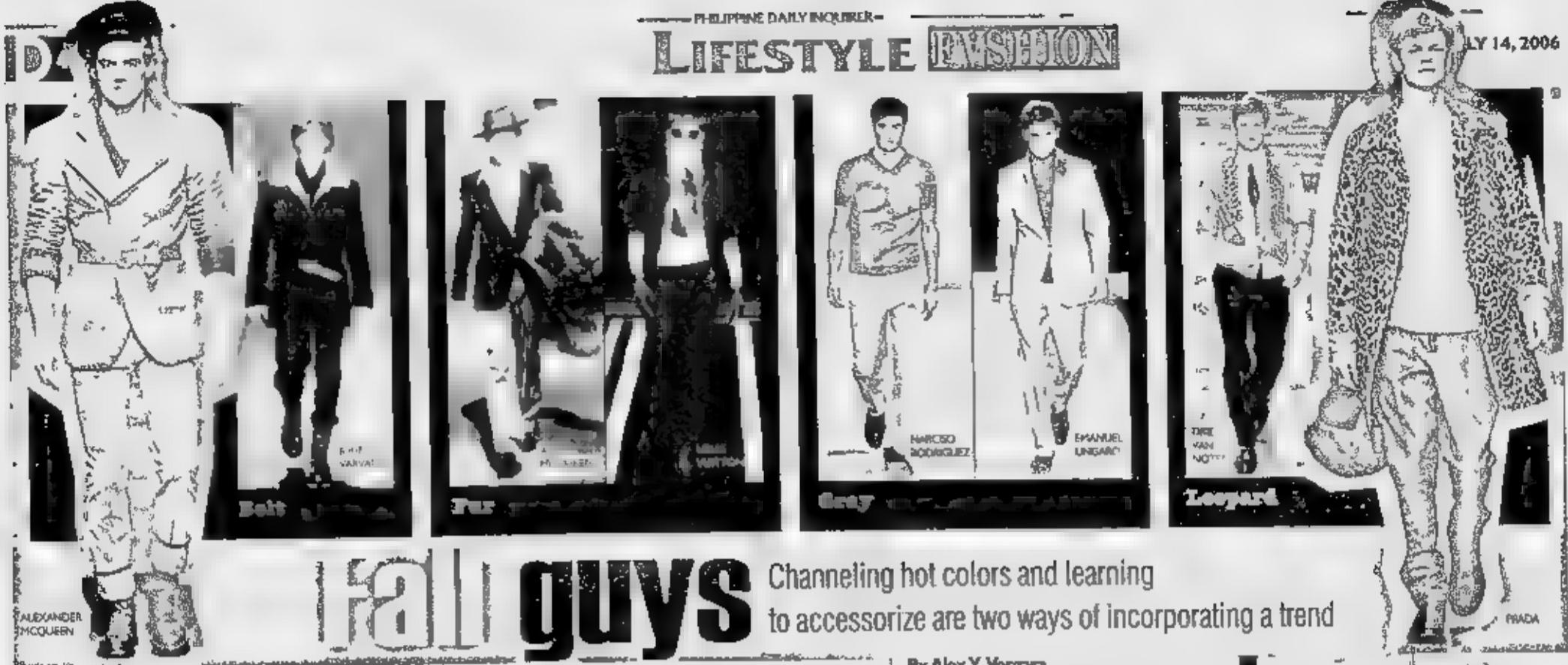


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# Fall guys

Channeling hot colors and learning to accessorize are two ways of incorporating a trend

**By Alex Y. Vergara**

**D**ON'T LOOK NOW, GUYS, but fashion designers are channeling the "teen spirit" of the late Nirvana man Kurt Cobain as summer makes way for Fall two months from now.

Together with holdovers from seasons past such as the military look, which seems bound to outlast even America's raging "war on terror," and animal prints, grunge fashion via plaid shirts worn over distressed tees, baggy jeans and military boots will be big this coming season.

Local designers such as Anthony Nocom and Joey Samson are one in saying that baggy pants with pleats will compete for space with the still popular slim trousers in every male fashionista's wardrobe. The two are also partial to the military or safari look via belted jackets with or without epaulets and in traditional colors such as fatigue and earth.

Apart from navy and gray, says Samson, the so-called black romantic will also be in vogue this Fall. The material of choice as far as accents go will still be leather in the form of various animal prints, adds Nocon. Belts in various sizes, materials and treatments

Randy Ortiz, on the other hand, is placing his money on denim and knitted waistcoats (vests) and cropped jackets. While at it, he also advises the fashion-forward to invest in pea coats and hooded jackets made of denim, cotton twill or light wool.

pieces. In keeping with the season (at least in temperate countries), suits and jackets either in hounds tooth or Glenn plaid are bound to make a comeback.

To add a dash of color to an otherwise all-black or all-grey ensemble, Ortiz advises the young and the daring to wear red trousers. In his book, polka-dotted shirts paired with low-waist and slim-cut denim jeans are also ideal in chasing those autumn blues away. Stocking up on knitted shirts, pullovers and cardigans made of light materials won't hurt.

As opposed to Nocon, who encourages the tall and the slim to dare wear a double-breasted jacket, Ortiz is sticking to the tapered one- or four-buttoned variety with a

As opposed to Nocon, who encourages the tall and the slim to dare wear a double-breasted jacket, Ortiz is sticking to the tapered one- or four-buttoned variety with a narrow lapel for formal occasions.

### Wishful thinking

Before the usual chorus of nitpickers accuses us anew of wishful thinking for promoting Fall fashion in a country where the season is either wet or dry, we've asked Samson and company to put these cold weather trends in the proper context

In short, how do you make these trends work without making the poor wearer faint from all that heat? How can the usually short and squat Pinoy get away with looks meant for the long and lumbrous Caucasian?

"The key to adopting trends is to know what works or what's appropriate to your personality, work and lifestyle," says Samson. "The ability to pull things together is also important."

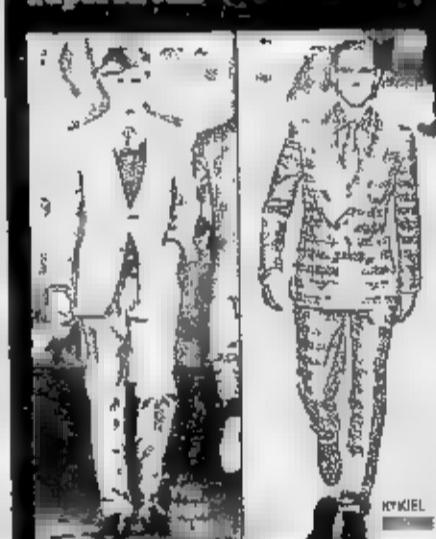
"You may be the most daring dresser in town, but it still pays to wear age-appropriate clothes," says Ortiz. "Such trends as red pants, polka-dotted shirts, low-waist jeans and wrapped jackets are meant for the

Size, or more precisely clothes with the right proportions, does matter. Nocom may be partial to double-breasted suits, but he admits that not all Filipinos can get away

"Like most Asians, Filipinos generally look good in suits with modern silhouettes," he says, "but the double-breasted suit can be a bit tricky and unflattering, especially to the average Filipino's height and

And no matter how prevalent a trend is, don't overdo it! Unless you want to look like Valentine's twin brother, for instance, it pays to wear a striking accent such as snakeskin (or other animal prints) to a minimum. The same applies to the military look. Part-time fashion "combatants" should leave the full battle regalia to GI Joe.

External test



Finally, you need not beg, steal or borrow in the name of fashion. Channelling hot colors, for example, is one way of incorporating your favorite colors. I began to incorporate

"When buying an item or piece of clothing," says Samson, "just make sure that it will work with your existing pieces."

Or, like Cobain's look (and music), your clothes should be able to transcend current trends and seasons.

trends and seasons.

# LIFE & STYLE

**Super-size it!**

The old adage "the bigger, the better" must be true because accessories are getting bolder this season. Over-sized bags, glasses and accessories have been in fashion for some time now, and the trend is stronger than ever. Shoes are even chunkier, as platforms and far-from-dainty pumps offer a direct contrast to streamlined clothing. Get on with the program and start investing in gigantic accessories that spell style.

## Awesome accessories

The flash and dash of gold jewelry, patent leather and racy leopard prints complement the somber hues of Fall fashion

**H**ARKING BACK TO THE minimalist flavor of fashion in the early '90s, this coming Fall fashion season is all about restraint and sobriety. Majority of the international fashion houses have presented sophisticated clothing in muted tones like gray and sand, with black and white as ever present staples.

Save for a few collections like Gucci's disco diva, Dolce and Gabbana's modern-day Josephine, and Christian Dior's glam rocker, most of the renowned fashion houses showed strong, no-nonsense ready-to-

wear collections that were practical and beautiful in their simplicity.

But as awe-inspiring as these collections were, not everyone's a fan of such serious, grownup fashions.

It's a good thing the rules of moderation did not apply to accessories. Flash and dash were evident in gold jewelry, patent leather and racy leopard prints, which were undeniably the perfect foil for Fall's somber selections.

Looking for a bit of fashion inspiration? Take a peek at and pick from the hottest accessories for Fall 2006.

E-mail the author at [afashion@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:afashion@inquirer.com.ph)

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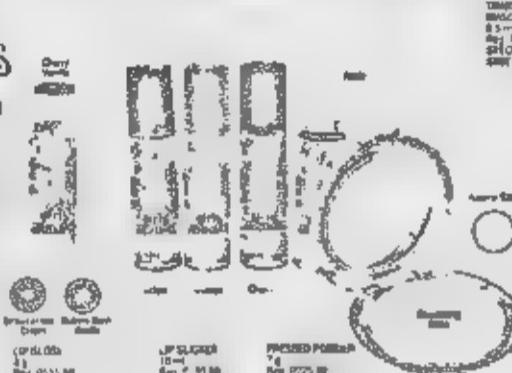


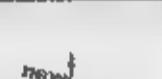
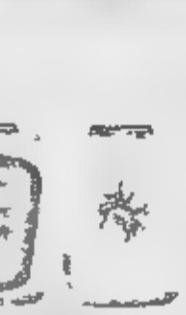
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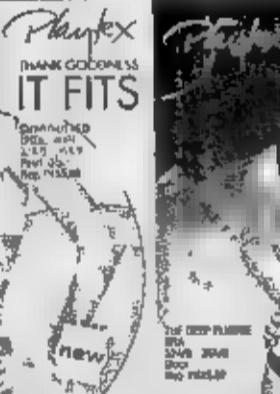
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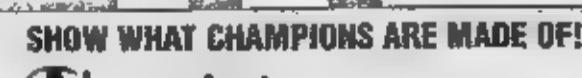
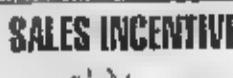
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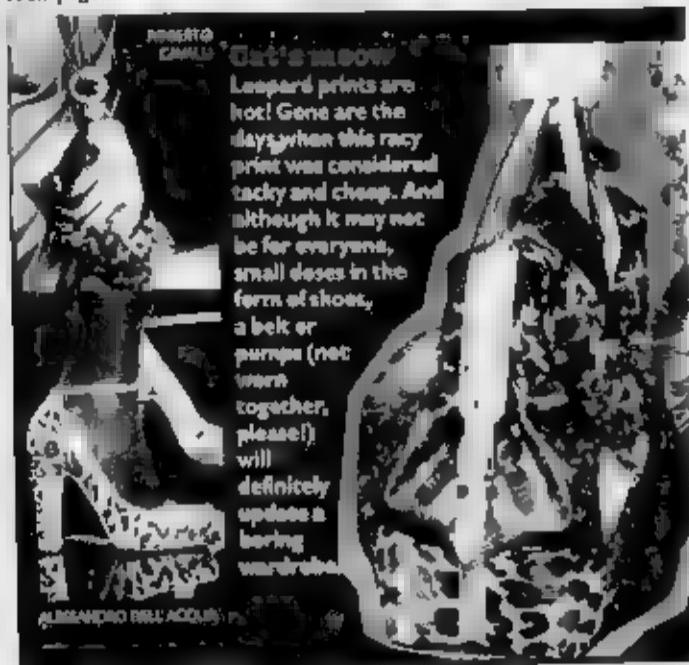
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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006



## Awesome accessories

From page E1



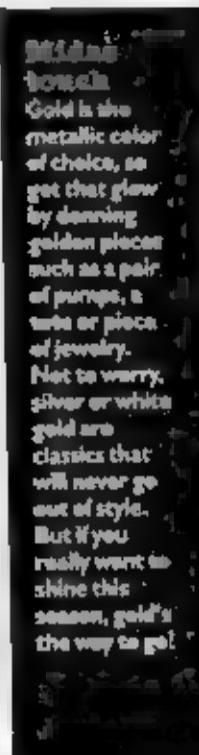
**Leopard prints**  
Gone are the days when this racy print was considered tacky and cheap. And although it may not be for everyone, small doses in the form of shoes, a belt or pumps (not worn together, please!) will definitely update a boring wardrobe.

ALEXANDRA BELLACQUA/PHOTO



### Boots-ticious

Boots or ankle boots are the perfect match for super hot leggings, ultra-skinny jeans and very shorts or mini-skirts. They are edgy, funky and hot. Plus, they help create interesting, modern proportions. They're also not as constricting and hot (literally, that is!) as their knee-high versions, so they're more apt for our humid weather.



**Gold**  
Gold is the metallic color of choice, so get that glow by donning golden pieces such as a pair of pumps, a tote or pieces of jewelry. Not to worry, silver or white gold are classics that will never go out of style. But if you really want to shine this season, gold's the way to go!



## EXPLORE WHAT'S SENSATIONAL ABOUT SUMMER

### STARBUCKS® Introduces Indulgent New Beverages: Java Chip Frappuccino®

A cool and delicious beverage is something that should be savored and enjoyed. This season, Starbucks invites you to discover its latest coffee treat, new Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Coffee. It's an icy blend of rich dark chocolate chips, coffee and milk topped with whipped cream and swirls of even more chocolate!

The decadent flavor of Java Chip Frappuccino Blended Coffee makes your day much more delightful. This hand crafted beverage is also available as a blended cream (non-coffee) delight, promises to provide an indulgent coffee experience.

A chip made of cookie crumbs mixed with rich cocoa and topped with chocolate confection coating, Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Beverage is a creamy, crunchy indulgent goodness that can be customized with chocolate, caramel or blended in cream.



A cool treat of Starbucks coffee, milk and ice Frappuccino® Blended Beverage is a handcrafted beverage introduced in 1995 by a group of Starbucks baristas in California. The original Frappuccino® flavors - coffee and mocha have been joined over the years by Coffee Jelly Frappuccino® and Caramel Frappuccino® and now, Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Coffee.

#### About Starbucks

Through the dedication of passionate partners (employees) Starbucks Coffee Company has transformed the way people in 37 countries enjoy their coffee, one cup at a time. Starbucks is the premier purveyor of the finest coffee in the world with more than 11,000 retail locations in North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim. The Company is committed to offering customers the highest quality coffee and human connection through the Starbucks Experience, while striving to improve the social, environmental and economic well being of its partners, coffee farmers, countries of coffee origin, and the communities it serves.

#### About Rustan Coffee Corporation

Starbucks Philippines is owned by Rustan Coffee Corporation (RCoC), the authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee International. Starbucks Philippines opened its first Starbucks Coffee retail store on December 4, 1997 at 6750 Ayala Avenue. To date, there are 100 Starbucks stores nationwide.

**JAVA CHIP**  
**FRAPPUCCINO® BLENDED COFFEE**

Sumptuous chocolatey morsels.  
Roasty-sweet measure of coffee.

Java Chip Frappuccino® blended coffee

ALSO AVAILABLE  
IN FRAPPUCCINO® LIGHT

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4ever**

GIORDAN



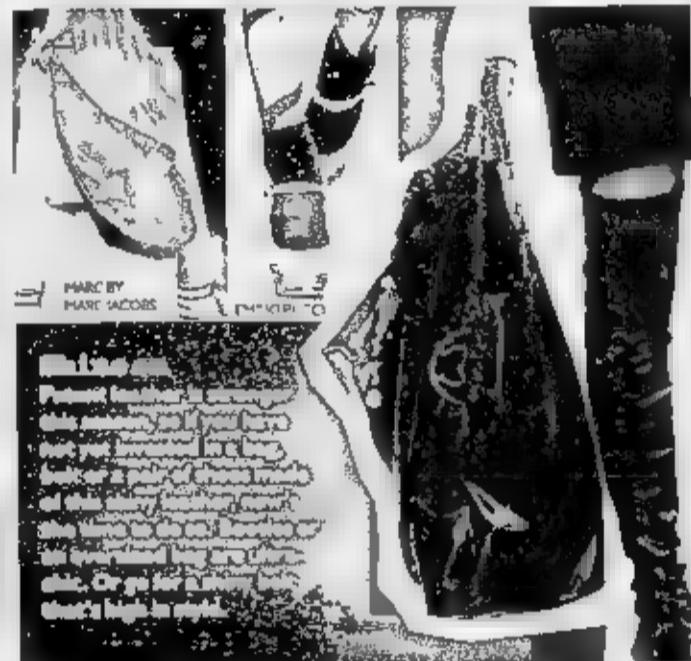
**4. JASANG TOWN CENTER - ALPHAL - PLANTFEST FESTIVAL SUPERMALL ALABANG - HAWAIIAN PLAZA - GUMETTE 4 - ROBINSONS GALERIA - TOWNNAINE PLACE BONIFACIO MANILA - TOWNNAINE MEGAMALL  
DAGCITY - 3L - 3L CITY ANTHILL - 3L CITY BACOOR - 3L CITY BOCAUAN - 3L CITY CAVITEXPOINT - 3L CITY ASSEMBLY - 3L CITY MANILA - 3L CITY MEGAMALLA - 3L CITY PAGASAAN - 3L CITY NORTH EDSA  
- THE PODIUM - 3L CITY SOUTHPARK - 3L CITY SUITE - 3L CITY LUCIA II - THE POWER PLANT MALL ROCKWELL - SURVIVAL CENTRALIA II - PAL OF ASIA (SOON TO OPEN) - ARENA CENTER CEBU CITY  
- KINING DONALD ZAMBOANGA CITY - HE PLAZA TOWER CALABARZON CITY - PARADISO BUTY FREE PLAZA CLARK - ROBINSONS PLAZA BACOOR CITY - 3L CITY BAGUIO - 3L CITY CDO - 3L CITY DAVAO  
- 3L CITY PAMPANGA - 3L CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - 3L CITY PANAMISA - 3L CITY BIRMANIA - LIMA PLUS WALL CAGAYAN DE ORO - 3L CITY TINGNANBAGA - 3L CITY GLORY HEIGHTS CITY -**



## **Awesome accessories**

From page 3

**Map it up.**  
remember your mom or  
grandmom's old purse  
with the snap enclosure?  
from the '50s? Well,  
they're called frame bags  
and they are back in style.  
Pick one that's adorned  
with shiny, tweed and  
other such trimmings for  
added flair.



100



~~available at the children's wear, shoes & accessories departments~~

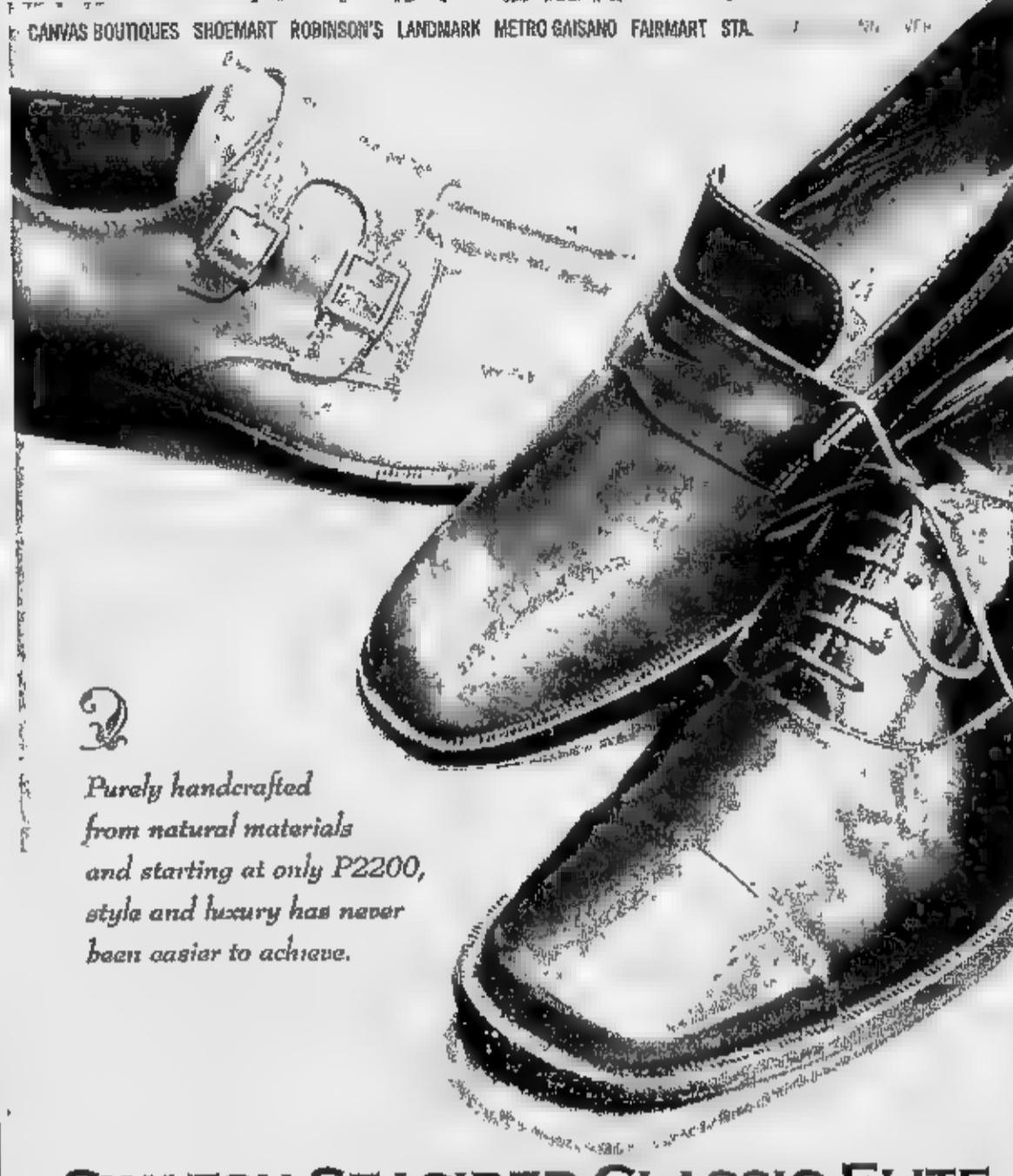
CHICAGO • KANSAS CITY • COLUMBUS • NEW YORK • BOSTON • PHILADELPHIA • BALTIMORE • WASHINGTON • BIRMINGHAM • ATLANTA • NASHVILLE • MEMPHIS • HOUSTON • DALLAS • SAN ANTONIO • AUSTIN • BOULDER • DENVER • COLORADO SPRINGS • SALT LAKE CITY • OREGON CITY • PORTLAND • SEATTLE • TACOMA • BEND • EUGENE • KAMIAK • PORT ALBERNI • VICTORIA • VANCOUVER • CALGARY • EDMONTON • WINNIPEG • REGINA • SASKATOON • ST. JOHN'S • HALIFAX • MONCTON • FREDERICTON • GATINEAU • MONTREAL • QUEBEC CITY • TORONTO • KITCHENER • GUELPH • BRANTFORD • LONDON • KAMIAK • PORT ALBERNI • VICTORIA • VANCOUVER • CALGARY • EDMONTON • WINNIPEG • REGINA • SASKATOON • ST. JOHN'S • HALIFAX • MONCTON • FREDERICTON • GATINEAU • MONTREAL • TORONTO • KITCHENER • GUELPH • BRANTFORD • LONDON •







**ANIMALAND**, the do-it-yourself stuffed-animal store, recently awarded the designer "Kitty for Mom" to winners Melanie Fadriguela of Twinville Subdivision, Marikina (JC Buendia design); Jessica Cruz of San Juan (Dita Sandico-Ong design); and Ruth Vera of Eastern Place, Salcedo Village, Makati (Frederick Peralta design). Animaland has branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Power Plant Rockwell, Eastwood City Libis, Alabang Towncenter, and Toy Kingdom Mall of Asia. In photo are Rose de la Torre of Animaland, and Jessica Cruz, winner of Dita Sandico-Ong stuffed toy with her kids.



2

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SALE!**

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**JULY 12-16 ONLY**

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# Italian wafers brand promotes reading

**THE PLEASURE OF READING IS HEIGHTENED** by Loacker with its Power Reader promo! Every time you buy a pack of Italian wafer Loacker in 200-g, 220-g or 250-g sizes, you will get P50 discount in purchasing your favorite book and the hottest bestsellers at any branch of PowerBooks. To avail of P50 price cut, present empty Loacker packs bearing the promo sticker prior to your book purchase. The Loacker Power Reader promo runs until July 15.

**LIVELIHOOD LECTURES.** The Edsa Garden House announces the schedule of lectures for July. July 15, 2-5 p.m., Soap-making by Elma

Ocrosma, seminar fee, P2,000, July 22, 2-5 p.m., Gift-wrapping by Rache Cuna, seminar fee, P2,000; July 29, 2-5 p.m., Hebrew Flower Arrangement by Seraphina Meijla, seminar fee is P500. Kits sold at P350 each. The Edsa Garden House is in the Manila Seedling Bank Environment Center at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. It has a spacious parking space. Call 9270510, 9293189. Pre-registration for the lectures is a must.

**FLORAL COMPETITION.** The 4th Eduard André Awards for Floral Design Competition, will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 21, at the Convention Hall of

## GOINGS

the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Elliptical Road cor. Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. Organized by Agrikultura Pilipina Inc., the Challenge to Creativity André Awards is named after French botanist Eduard André and sponsored by Jasam Floral Sundries, King Louis Flowers and Plants Inc., and Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants. Call Agrikultura Pilipina, Inc., at tel. 9127457/9122671 or fax 9136104.

**MALL SALE.** Shangri-La Plaza is offering as much as 75-percent discount on selected items during its season-enter sale that ends July 31. The mall-wide sale also features "Shop, Pick &

Win" that lets shoppers pick and win instant prizes. A state-of-the-art entertainment showcase can be won on the grand draw at 6 p.m., Aug. 5, Grand Atrium.

For a minimum single-receipt, same-day purchase of P2,500 shoppers get a raffle coupon plus a chance to pick instant prizes. Call Shangri-La Plaza Marketing Division at 6337851 to 70.

**REWARDS POINTS** Citibank gives Platinum and Gold cardholders exclusive items they can redeem with less Rewards points.

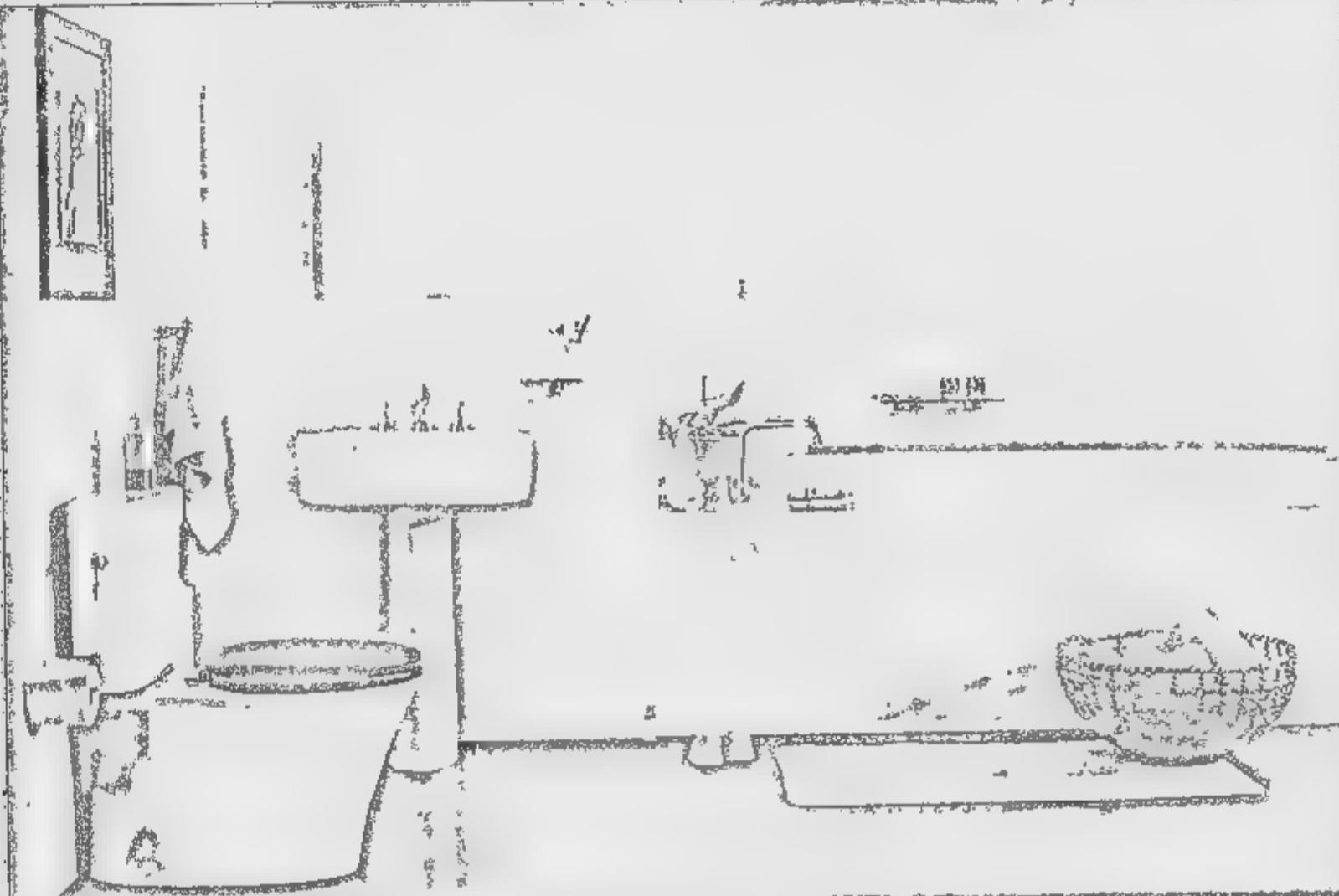
The 2006 Rewards Catalog's new section, Intensity Gold, showcases items available to Platinum and Gold cardmembers at 20-percent less the required points. Every P30 charged locally to a Citibank Platinum or Gold card earns one Rewards point while every P30 charged overseas earn two Rewards points. Apply for a Citibank Platinum or Gold card by calling 4238000.

**POSTGRADUATE COURSE.** The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines, Manila and the C.H.I.L.D Foundation, Inc., will hold its 2006 Subspecialty Postgraduate Course dubbed "Across Borders: Childhood Infections in the Subspecialties," Aug. 30-31, at the Century Park Hotel. The Postgraduate course aims to update health-care professionals on validated approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and management of pediatric and adolescent infections. Call 5240892, 5218450 loc. 2101 or 2107 for inquiries.

**SEMINARS** The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions (ABAP) and the Center for Human Research and Development Foundation will hold seminars for librarians: "Collection Management in a Digital Environment," July 12-13; and "Organization and Management of a Small One-man Library," July 14-15. Both seminars will be held at the Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Bldg., Real cor. Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858 or 9254572.

**MOMS AND BABIES FAIR** Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Planeta Toys are holding "Mommy, Baby and Toy Fair" until July 31. The sale features the "Mom & Me" photo contest, among others. A showcase of toys is featured in the Toy Fair being held simultaneous with Mommy and Baby Fair. It offers 50-percent discounts on participating toy brands.

**SCRAPBOOK TILT** A scrapbook-making contest will be held July 16, 2 p.m., at the Entertainment Center of Sta. Lucia East. A minimum purchase of P100 from All About Scrapbook and any item from the toys, infant and maternity section of Sied entitles a customer to join the contest. Gift certificates and gift packs await winners. Call 8615481 loc. 138.



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Inquirer life name/age/city/message  
to 2207 (Globe) or 183 (Smart)

# LIFE STYLE

## Vintage is the way to go in business

**T**HREE'S REALLY MONEY IN vintage fashion. Vintage shops are popping up. By vintage, we mean the widest time span possible—from five seasons old to five decades old.

Vintage fashion entrepreneurs really have a very loose interpretation of the term.

The latest to venture into vintage is Leica Carpo, who's leaving L'Oréal, where she's corporate brand PR manager and senior marketing manager for consumer division-Maybelline. Easily one of the country's most innovative dressers, she has just opened Modern Mythology with Celine Gabriel (also of L'Oréal) and fashion designer Patrice Ramos Diaz.

The store's intriguing name—Modern Mythology—is, if you think about it, what vintage fashion is about. It's adopting and adapting yesterday's stuff to today's style; modern and contemporary marrying the lore and history of clothes.

Leica, Celine and Patrice invited only 20 friends to the store last week, not one of whom went away empty-handed. Leica says they're not so much into legendary brands (like Halston) as into clothes they themselves can wear—pretty, feminine and soft, a bit bohemian. "If it's not the type we wear, we won't sell it," Leica said.

The tags the shops carry range from the unknown to the Dolce & Gabbana of the fashion world. The price range is fortunately wide—from P600 to a few thousand pesos.

The merchandise range is just as wide—from clothes to accessories.

The market for vintage fashion is apparently growing. Louis Claparols, whose Marni's Room is a huge success, said that recently he had in the store some high school girls shopping for bags from the '60s. (See related story on G4.) The clientele, he observed, could be as young as 18 or 19. Today's twenty-something want to wear stuff from the '60s, even the '50s—from clothes to Jackie O shades. And if you consider that "vintage" now includes the '90s, then sky's the limit for this business.

Claparols also has fabrics from the '50s, mostly rayons. (I thought he had alaskin.) Marni's Room began as a home business in

VINTAGE/G3

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thehna Sioson San Juan*



BEAUTY executive Leica Carpo hops on the vintage bandwagon with the Modern Mythology store.

  
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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006



**ON MARY Jean (left):**  
Marni's Room striped  
knit top, P1,350, and  
fish-print red skirt,  
P1,650; Dressing  
Room necklace, P950.  
Shot at Home &  
Beyond store, 2/L R2.  
Lifestyles, Power  
Plant Mall, Rockwell

STYLING MILLET ARIZAGA  
MAKEUP LOUISE RAMOS/  
EMPHASIS SALON  
MODELS MARY JEAN MAYCON  
AND HAZEL AGUILAR  
FASHION SELECT STORE AT  
THE 2/L R2 LIFESTYLES, POWER  
PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL  
LOCATION POWER PLANT  
MALL, ROCKWELL, MAKATI CITY



**ON HAZEL:** Graxie  
by Reian Matz pink  
ruffle-overlap top  
with brown lace  
camisole, P1,200,  
and shorts, P700;  
Cru earrings by  
Mickey See/Pilar,  
P460; Marni's Room  
braided belt, P950;  
Dressing Room  
bangles, P275 each;  
Trunk Show rope  
sandals, P1,199;  
Aranaz bag, P2,500.  
Shot at Home &  
Beyond store, 2/L R2.  
Lifestyles, Power  
Plant Mall, Rockwell

## Independents' day

From page G4

"But just like before, I'll still be around most of the time to personally attend to customers," Pineda says. "They can still shop and linger if they want to in a relaxed and informal atmosphere."

Irene's Closet and Marni's Room now share a modest space with Plank and Pilar. The former features clothes designed by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, while the latter is owned by publicist GP Reyes and journalist Vicky Tensuan.

Not that their loyal patrons are complaining. Why should they when they now have a convenient place to go to whenever they feel the urge to put together a look or beef up their wardrobes?

"They no longer have to drive to out-of-the-way places just to check on what's new," says Malou Pineda (no relation to Irene), GM of Power Plant Mall. "Almost everything they need—from dresses to accessories, bags to shoes—is here."

Since independent Lifestyles also houses a kaleidoscope of other local brands, many of which are only found in the mall, fashionistas can celebrate their individuality by each creating a fashion statement all their own.

### Varied names

The list of independent names includes



**ON HAZEL:** Patteau yellow/black overlap blouse by Patty Eustaquio/Plank, P1,500; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P460; Citizens of Humanity jeans at Anthem Store, P11,500. **On Mary Jean:** Pilar printed coat, P1,800; Marni's Room gold belt (used as necklace), P800; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P460; Seven for All Mankind jeans at Anthem, P9,400. Shot at the Anthem Jeans store, 2/L R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Aranaz (by Armina Aranaz), Ilaya Couture, Tru, Sepato Manila, Whimsy, Marion Godart, Hot Pink, Anthem, Solea, Patteau (by Patty Eustaquio), Louvre (by LV Punzalan) and Graxie (by Reian Matz), among others. They share the same wing with such chain brands as Crabtree and Evelyn, Speedo, Nothing but Water and Evita Peroni.

There are a number of stores that feature men's items, but the concept decidedly caters more to women. To complete the latter's shopping experience, VMV Hypoallergenic cosmetics recently joined the mall with its first stand-alone shop and facial clinic at Independent Lifestyles.

At the same time, both tenants and Power Plant management are working hard to set Independent Lifestyles apart from other concepts. Aside from banking on quality, stores are expected to provide the public with stylish and hard-to-find stuff in limited quantities. In short, the strategy is to keep 'em coming.

Sapato Manila, for instance, offers no more than 24 pairs in various sizes of a particular style. Once that style is gone, it's gone forever. The same rule, if a bit more exacting, applies to clothes, especially vintage, one-of-a-kind finds. Even clothes produced by designers usually have no duplicates.

"The mall isn't that big, so we have to be selective in choosing our tenants," Malou Pineda explains. "It also helps if a personality is behind the store or brand, as it's likely to promote a more intimate relationship between client and tenant."

Malou Pineda and company stumbled upon such a concept a few years back after holding their first Vintage Bazaar at the NBC Tent.

Despite (or probably because of) featuring fledgling designers and retailers, the regular shopping fairs, which usually lasted up to three days, attracted a huge following among Manila's trendy and soon-to-be-trendy. It was only a matter of time before a number of these stores owned by the most intrepid individuals became permanent fixtures at the Power Plant.

"Mass-produced outfits and cookie-cutter looks are things you don't find at Independent Lifestyles," Malou Pineda assures.

What you do find is stuff that separates the trendsetters from the mere followers, the fashionistas from the fashion victims. With such a concept, local RTW fashion and vintage dressing have probably never been this fun and, yes, independent.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

## Vintage is the way . . .

From page G1

Malate. The more it got featured in the glossies, the more its clientele grew. Now it can afford a space at Power Plant in Rockwell.

Hardly three weeks old, Leica's Modern Mythology is moving to a bigger space in Legaspi Village, Makati.

Leica is enjoying sourcing for old stuff. She only had to forage in the closet of her "abuelita" (grandmother) and her Rufino aunts. (By the way, Leica is moving back to the Inquiries in August.)

There are other vintage stores, their names as interesting as their stuff: Closer Raiders, Baul, Loveli Store. (Five years ago, after visiting a vintage store in Melbourne, I thought opening one in Manila wouldn't be such a bad idea—

only had to raid closets, and call the store Lola's Apator. Never got around to doing it.)

Today it's obvious that vintage is not just a trend. It is here to stay—a permanent style option for women and a few men who are always in search of options. And the 21st century lifestyle is all about options, whether it be in relationship, fashion—or even gender preference.

It's not only the ukay-ukay or tiangge that are the competition to mainstream retail. For more and more fashion-conscious women, vintage stores are the way to go.

They've been around forever in New York, Los Angeles and London. In Metro Manila, they're peaking in '06.

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GJ



**ON MARY** Jean: Pilar orange shirt dress, P900; Ilaya Couture ruffle-lace top, P980; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P550; Seven for All Mankind jeans at Anthem, P9,400; Aranaz luggage, P3,000 each. On Hazel: Pilar bolero, P650; Ruth & Esther inner top, P800, and floral skirt, P1,290; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P850; Dressing Room bubble skirt, P1,595; Aranaz bag, P3,000; Trunk Show shoes, P1,290.

Shot at Restoration Store One, 3/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

**ON MARY** Jean: Pilar brown/mocha dress by Patty Eustaquio/Plank, P4,200; Ilaya Couture lace vest, P980; Verity necklace by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo/Plank, P780; Sapato Manila sandal, P1,500. On Hazel: Marni's Room batwing top, P750, and vintage Versace inner top, P1,750; Cru heart locket necklace by Mickey See/Pilar, P880; Dressing Room bubble skirt, P1,595; Aranaz bag, P3,000; Trunk Show shoes, P1,290.

Shot at Restoration Store One, 3/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell



## Independents' day

By Alex Y. Vergara  
Photos by Jo Ann Bitagol

**R**AFTER THAN BLINDLY follow trends, fashionistas are known to set trends themselves. Because of the high premium they put on individuality, they are a group apart from the simply fashionable.

These are the type of women Irene Pineda and Louie Claparols have been catering to since first opening their respective houses to a select group of clients a few years ago. Thankfully, they each now have a permanent and more convenient venue outside their homes to showcase their vintage RTW collections.

Pineda is the custodian behind Irene's Closet, which sells vintage but unused dress-

es and separates from Japan. Claparols, a fashion designer, and partner Bobby Carlos man Marni's Room, a homegrown label featuring pre-owned designer outfits and accessories.

Such an informal arrangement between them and their customers became a thing of the past since they joined Independent Lifestyles, an area located on the second floor of the Power Plant Mall sometime ago. For one, they're now open to everybody.

INDEPENDENTS/GJ

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